

Shared reading of a text

Ask the participants to read the selected passage using a shared, slow and reflective reading method. You might wish to explain the process in the following manner: “We are going to read the text together as a group. I will begin by reading a line or two and then stopping where I feel appropriate. When someone else is ready, he or she reads the next line. Feel free to repeat lines, words or phrases that strike you or you feel the need to emphasize. You can go back and repeat or retrieve words or phrases that have already been read, to emphasize them, but please do not repeat words or phrases that have not yet been read as the text unfolds. We will continue this way until the passage has ended. Do not worry about long silences; rather be conscious of the silences. Allow the silences to fill you with the words. We need the spaces between the word to help us build creativity and understanding.”

(This process was first shared with me at the SOT of St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN. *Lectio divina* has multiple forms, this is simply one of them.)