Read the story. Read it again. This time use a highlighter or colored pencil. Highlight the key words. Now practice reading it aloud.

Now read it to your partner. Read with emotion.

Kafka, the girl and her doll.

Franz Kafka was a famous writer. He never married and had no children.

One day, he was walking in a park in Berlin. He met a little girl. She was crying because she had lost her favorite doll. He helped her look but they couldn’t find it.

Kafka said for her to come back the next day. They would continue looking.

The next day, Kafka gave the girl a letter. It was “written” by the doll. It said, “Please don’t cry. I took a trip around the world. I will write to you about my adventures.”

Kafka continued to meet the girl. Whenever he did, he would bring letters from the doll. The letters told about her amazing adventures.

Finally, Kafka bought a doll in another country. He gave it to the girl. She said, “This doesn’t look like my doll at all.” The doll had a letter. It said, “My travels have changed me.”

The girl was happy. She took the doll home.

One year later, Kafka died. The girl was now an adult. She found a tiny letter hidden in the doll’s clothes. It was signed by Kafka. It said, “Everything you love will probably be lost, but in the end, love will return in another way.”

Talk about the story with your partner. How do you each feel now?

No one knows if this story is really true, but the message is a good one.