



THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN IMPROVEMENT OF READING SKILL

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Abstract: *It is no doubt that literature is a great media for teaching and learning language owing to the fact that the language of literature is very rich in vocabulary, well-organized and consistent. Literary classes do not only enhance language abilities, but also foster the reading skills. Therefore, the aim of this paper is arguing that literature is an essential key to improve reading skills as well as creativity and enhance vocabulary by reading books. In addition, there is one book that I strongly recommend for literature lovers to improve their cognitive skills. (AliBaram Mohammed Sulaimani Polytechnic University and Cihan University-Sulaimani)*

Key Words: *Novel, short stories, creativity, cognitive skills, "Miracle worker"*

Literature is a big source that all the elements of language are properly used. Literary books lead to thorough understanding of foreign languages and provide opportunity for practicing the critical skills for improving reading skills. Consequently, reading is more fluently and naturally improved through literature. Recently there have been ongoing debates and arguments whether literary books are more helpful and informative than the linguistic components within the syllabus of improvement of reading. Most of the teachers specialized for teaching reading skills, genuinely believe that reading literature in classes is interesting and very effective technique for boosting reading skills. In particular, reading novels and short stories levels up reader's knowledge and opens up to another way of thinking and making a student a different person. With a novel or short stories students can be part of exciting events without fear of being crushed by the risks. Literary reading means to meet more people by imagining. Various people with various problems, even those who we do not want to meet them in real life as well as the problems that we do not want to happen to us in reality. We remember the story of "Miracle worker" by William Gibson. This literary story we do not want to happen to us in the real world. Similarly, the story of "The catcher in the rye" by J.D.Salinger, we imagine ourselves as Holden Caulfield. At the same time traveling is also the available by reading fictional books and it gives an opportunity to learn other peoples and cultures. It can create a whole new world to reader, right at student's doorstep. There are a wide range of books about different countries, so



one can read about any culture and see the life of different nations through books (Abdullah Sam December 21, 2015)

Here are 4 benefits of reading classic literature:

1. Readers of literature get a clear picture of whatever they read easily regardless the books are scientific or fictional. The literary term for this is “allusion,” and if student miss them or do not understand them, they will feel ignorant. This will lower dopamine levels, thus making readers think they do not like the book they are reading. Then, they think they do not like quality books at all. But learning allusions by reading fictional books provide an ability to improve vocabulary or communication skills especially in foreign languages. The benefit of learning allusions by reading fictional books gives an opportunity to make sentences more accurately and gorgeous.

2. In fact, by increasing the number of hours of reading, readers broaden their horizon and their knowledge about the world becomes more distinct and understandable. Books that reflect lives similar to ours are called “mirrors.” Thus, they illustrate the life that we live with our schedule, family members, relationships, and problems. Books that give us a glance of a life different from ours are called “windows.” It means that they show us how we can live without evil and create a miracle life. Literature has the potential to represent and interpret the world, both external and internal, objective and subjective, through the use of language and storytelling.

3. It is worth noting that reading books is beneficial for the mind that have strong ideas, like fantastic and imaginative characters even if one knows that it is not a real. As a matter of fact, it’s the best way to discover the strength and validity of your own creative ideas. It is a sort of super drug or a wonderful activity that makes us inspired and rational.

4. Reading complex works is challenge and challenges are good. You feel good about yourself when you accomplish something that was actually difficult. It’s a dopamine festival in your brain. The books that challenge us are the books that stay with us. I have read literally novels, but the ones that stick with me are the ones many others would consider the “hard” ones. For example, “War and peace” by Russian author Leo Tolstoy talks about the events and emotions that can happen to the people ever since humanity exists. Actually, it's a book that describes us and everyone finds a piece of it. I feel that my problem-solving abilities and my patience has sharpened after reading that book.

The book that students really need to read for refining reading skill is “Miracle worker” by William Gibson, since this book helps not only improve cognitive skills



but also provide an opportunity to increase the number of vocabulary and assist to learn about the methodology. If I add about the context and analysis of this book it is about the teaching method and its result for disabled children. The events are closely connected with each other and very clearly completed by adding some extra emotional actions. This book is written like script for the scene and there is so many versions on TV are played by experienced actors. Characters are made very accurate combination with each other. For example, Annie Sullivan is a character that author found as a teacher of disabled girl Helen who turned to both blind and deaf after being seriously ill in her childhood. These two characters help and feel each other during the book. Because the path of learning sign language Annie tries to teach to Helen Keller how to communicate despite doctors fails in order to not watch her traumatic past on Helen. And the young lady helps her teacher with her ability to learn things easily without difficulties in short time. However, this book teaches readers to be patient, determined and self-confident. Annie's disasters are come from the rude behavior of her student. Thus, this book is highly recommended for both students and teachers, because, it can improve the reading ability among students and gives an opportunity to learn method for teachers. Teachers can learn what kind of attitude they should have toward disabled pupils by reading "Miracle worker". "Miracle workers" not only help to students and teachers but also can teaches parent how they uphold right parent child interaction for disabled children that are in the same situation with Helen Keller.

The benefits of literature in improvement of reading skills and creativity is unlimited and there is no doubt that people cannot imagine their life and study without books. Therefore, they should spend their most times on reading fictional books.

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