

# THE ESSENCE OF READING IN LEARNING

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Reading is essential in the acquisition of various information. Reading is the key tool for learning. Without reading proficiency, one may find it difficult to get information from printed texts. This is how vital the role of reading competence to learning is. But what skills does it cover? Will it be safe to say that a learner is a proficient reader if he or she is only good at recognizing words? What about his or her reading comprehension skills? Digging deeper to the meaning of reading, it may actually cover both word recognition and being able to make meaning from the text read. Hence, for a child to be a proficient reader, he or she must be fluent in word recognition and reading comprehension skills which include subskills or competencies, such as noting details, sequencing events, making predictions, drawing conclusions, making inferences, getting the main idea and the likes.

Aside from the fact the reading is a required skill for the acquisition of knowledge from printed page, reading may also help learners develop their vocabulary skill which directly aids in their comprehension ability. Aside from this, reading will also help students acquire values which will somehow hone their character and personality. By reading various materials, selections and passages, one may travel to other places and time as he or she would be able to imagine the things, places, events and people described or narrated in the materials he or she is reading. Reading may also help people discover various information on Science and Technology, History, and Geography. Indeed, there are a lot of benefits to enjoy in reading with comprehension. Aside from the foregoing, developing the reading competence of each learner will likewise result to the enhancement of his or her oral/ speaking, writing, listening and viewing skills as he or she will get familiar with the English language. Hence, all Reading teachers have the most important task to develop the reading abilities of each learner under their care. They must ensure that at the end of the grade level, all the students under their care are reading proficiently, at least at their grade level and the advocacy to make every Filipino learner proficient in reading should be fully supported by the home. Parents must make a follow up on the reading lessons of their children. They should regularly communicate with their children's Reading teachers.

Both, the home and the school, should work hand in hand to provide the needed learning environment, opportunities, materials and assistance for their students so as to eventually develop a country of readers who can evaluate various reading materials and events with comprehension, wisdom and values. After all, the Filipino youth will be the future of the Philippines.

-oOoThe author is Teacher at Sindalan Elementary School