

## FEED THE YOUNG MINDS

*by:*

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“I chose to define reading as a message-getting, problem-solving activity which increases in power and flexibility the more it is practiced,” as it was quoted by Marie Clay in her book entitled *Becoming Literature* (Letchford, 2018).

It is very true that when we read, we tend to exercise our comprehension from the simplest to the most complex one. We become more flexible, because it stimulates our imagination as we read. It also enhances our ability to solve certain problems because of the knowledge and information we gained or acquired from what we have read.

Hence, preparing the teaching personnel and the school itself in the implementation of the new reading program is one of the key roles and purposes of every school institution in the learners’ reading development since developing reading skill among the learners is one of the significant competencies to be developed in the teaching and learning processes.

In order to deal with the difficulties in the implementation of reading programs, especially during the crucial period like pandemic and other unexpected calamities and disasters, several techniques and strategies and a series of demonstrations must be learned and implemented in a more serious and comprehensive manner. It is the duty of the educators, particularly the teachers to widen the horizon of the learners through reading.

In the recent pandemic education challenges, teachers had encountered learners with difficulties in reading. Based on the results of the reading assessments through EGRA and

Phil-IRI, there was an increase in reading difficulties and poor comprehension level among the learners. It was conducted at all levels across the nation. Sadly, reality hits our education system. With these overwhelming results, a recovery plan is crafted to close the gaps and address the learning loss.

Despite the difficulties and challenges, considering the minds of the young depends on the learning they are being fed, teachers serve as the guide, the feeder of knowledge and the mold of the child to the total development. Teachers as the frontliners in helping our learners must be equipped with appropriate skills. Intensified training for upskilling and reskilling are needed.

Moreover, in this sense, the learner may also tend to overcome the difficulties that they are facing. They may be able to read, to learn, to comprehend and to solve problems in their own way. Feed them not just with learnings but with respect, love, care and understanding for their minds are hungry with knowledge. What our learners need now is a compassionate and supportive teacher to reset their young minds and hearts to love reading.

#### *References:*

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