

## READING BETWEEN THE LIES

*by:*

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Much has been said about reading and still, there is a lot more to say. With information passing from one tongue to another, facts become fallacies. Fallacies become facts. As important as reading is, there should be no misconceptions about it. This is crucial since these myths can hinder a child's reading skills. If all parents will regard these as general truths, it is hard to imagine the consequences to society. There is a need to stop its spread, it involves everyone and the time is now.

Here are some mistaken beliefs about reading followed by an attempt to rectify it.

The faster a child reads, the better they are at reading.

Although reading at an ideal phase is good, reading to just pronounce the letters of each word is futile. A person reads for him to understand the meaning of what is being read. Most students would brag about how fast they read, but when asked about what was read, they would say, they do not have a clue.

One of the good qualities of reading is being able to monitor their understanding. By recognizing they are reading for a purpose, skilled readers monitor their understanding to identify areas where meaning is lost (Konza, 2011). They also "construct, revise and question" their understanding based on prior knowledge and experiences (Duke & Pearson, 2002, p. 205). That is why reading is always associated with reading comprehension which is also an interesting topic to discuss.

Reading comes naturally for kids.

The increasing number of nonreaders in the country is alarming that the Department of Education is exhausting all resources to combat it. This increase in number is proof that reading does not come naturally to children. Reading requires a collective effort from the child, the teacher, and of course, the parents. There is a process for learning to read just like how it is with speaking. Most students (sometimes, along with the parent and teacher) lack the commitment to learn reading that they resort to procrastination and eventually just accept it as it is. When they are in their teens the lack of commitment is coupled with the embarrassment that they will decide to drop out of school. This should never be the case. Learning to read, is not as easy as snapping a finger but it is never impossible and never too late.

If your child is having trouble reading, they just need more time.

Just like the idea mentioned before, it is expected for the student to learn reading in their way and in time. But this should also not be the case. Although time is important, if nothing is done within the time, learning to read will never take place. It has to be reiterated that, besides time, the support of the parent, teacher, and the community is a crucial factor for learning to read.

Readers who are behind should master literal comprehension before inferential comprehension.

Although the literal details of a story like the characters, setting, and main idea are important in reading, it is found that inferential comprehension can also be achieved alongside it. The reason for this is while the student reads, he or she may be able to relate the story to his or her own life or prior knowledge that understanding beyond the literal content is possible. Guide questions like, what do you think is happening here and what do you think the author meant by the following lines are valuable to the students' journey towards inferential comprehension.

While this article may have discussed some of the misconceptions, there are still a lot of misunderstandings on reading. What is important is for one to verify the authenticity of the claim before being swayed by it. And while there are still many things that need to be proven on reading, one thing is for sure, reading is an important skill that everyone should possess.

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