

THE ROLE OF LITERATURE IN IMPROVING READING COMPREHENSION OF THE STUDENTS

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One of the four language skills taught to English language learners is reading. It cannot be picked up fast or easily. Consequently, reading comprehension instruction is required to help pupils become better at recognizing authors' ideas. Reading comprehension is a crucial receptive skill that kids must acquire. To receive a passing score for reading comprehension, they must possess a solid grasp of all reading-related skills, including the central concept, inferences, details, and vocabulary. Reading instruction aims to develop pupils' skills to read effectively and efficiently.

Students' ability to read other nonfiction is positively impacted by extensive reading, primarily of fiction. Students at universities are required to finish their reading at various levels. Reading a lot is one technique for kids to become more competent. However, most pupils do not read much in English (Niati, 2017). However, reading comprehension and speed were improved by students who read more pages (Kirin et al., 2012). Long-term reading exercises can also improve vocabulary enrichment. Extensive Reading Programs (ERPs) have shown encouraging results, showing that ERPs can help language learners become more proficient readers while fostering a good attitude and drive for reading. The same study demonstrates that reading has an impact on pupils' motivation. All things considered, if a comprehensive reading program that respects students' reading autonomy is put into practice while considering a variety of potential outcomes, it can effectively support L2 students' reading motivation (Puspitasari, 2020).

Reading comprehension is aided by the relationship that literary texts foster between the reader and the text. Reading literature is enjoyable and educational. They

contend that literary texts not only impart knowledge to students but also help them become proficient in understanding sentence functions, various ways to connect ideas, and the variety of sentence structures. Literary texts also offer content-based instruction, which speeds up language learning. Reading literary works makes students happy and motivated, which eventually improves their reading ability. When it comes to reading for comprehension, kids have a lot of excellent chances when they read novels and poetry (Shang, 2006).

. In addition to being useful in language learning environments, literary texts expose language learners to the real world so they can pick up on and mimic the literary texts intended for native speakers and become acquainted with a variety of linguistic structures, communicative roles, and meanings. According to Shresta (2008), literature offers the knowledge necessary to give language learners real-world input.

Thus, Reading literature benefits students' reading comprehension in a number of ways. First, when exposed to a variety of literary genres and styles, students' reading perspectives are broadened, enabling them to adapt their comprehension strategies for various text types. As they engage with a variety of literary works, students encounter sophisticated terminology and linguistic nuances that expand their vocabulary and improve their understanding of foreign words in context. Furthermore, by training children to infer, evaluate, and draw connections within the text, studying characters, themes, and plot developments in literature aids in the development of students' analytical and critical thinking skills. Literature also opens doors to historical and cultural knowledge by offering perspectives on other societies, times, and human experiences. By empathizing with characters from diverse origins, students develop empathy and perspective-taking abilities, which improves their understanding of literary works and real-world situations.

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