

READING MAKES FUN AND MEANINGFUL FOR K TO 3 PUPILS

by:

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The result of reading and literacy in the Philippines is very alarming. Before World War I, the literacy rate in the Philippines was at a dismal 20% and just rose to the middle range (35%-75%) during the 1950's. Based on fact, among the 79 participating countries, the Philippines scored the lowest in reading comprehension in the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment or PISA in which reading is the primary subject assessed. Another sad truth is that at the school level, some schools honestly have non-readers, and some have a very high number of students at the frustration level based on the Philippine Informal Reading Inventory or PHILIRI.

Reading connects ideas. So a student, /must know how to read because it is a necessary skill that will help him understand the lessons in his / her subject areas. Having a skill in reading is like having a skeletal system because it is the framework of the mind for understanding, storing information, and proper communication.

Dina Ocampo, the OIC of the Department of Education's Literacy Coordinating Council, once said the lines "It is through literacy that one is empowered to interact in his community and realizes his worth, what he can do and eventually make him do things that contribute in the sustainable development of his society".

Reading is a very significant skill that every learner must acquire for him to understand everything about learning and his environment. It is an armor that every person must have to fight illiteracy and be his "kalasag" in dealing with life's hard comings. It is an important skill to be a productive citizen of our country. Therefore, it is a priority for a teacher to help his/her student acquire the skill of reading.

Knowing the Philippines' present situation of reading and its importance, teachers in basic education, particularly in Kindergarten to Grade 3, must have the care to uplift the quality of education. They could be the key to improving the said situation. How? Maybe developing the learner, ' love for reading by exposing them to different reading materials appropriate for their level is a good start. Teachers, themselves, must be the model for loving the art of reading. Exposing the students to the different genres of literature through our lessons could be another way. Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy (ELLN) Focusing on the Science of Reading (SOR) and Deepening of Content Using Key Strategies in Teaching Reading” is a great help to equip and provide teachers technical assistance on instructional, reading, and numeracy teaching skills.

A quotation goes “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better”. May the Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers be the catalysts! The future of reading is in your hands. May you always have the fire in your heart to do something good for our country.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

References: