

## STRUGGLING READERS OF 21ST CENTURY

*by:*

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Covid-19 pandemic brought a hard time in learning. For learners not to be left behind, they must attend their classes online, answer activities and quizzes, and view discussions through a learning management system and different platforms. Doing these lets the learners navigate different websites and social networks simultaneously leading them to have reading comprehension problems that are still experienced today.

The challenges faced by 21st-century learners when it comes to reading are quite multifaceted.

Here are some common issues: “Digital Distractions”: With the rise of digital devices and constant connectivity, learners often find themselves distracted by notifications, social media, and other online activities, making it difficult to focus on reading.

The learners' “one-click” experience resulted in Short Attention Spans. In today's fast-paced world, many learners have shorter attention spans, which can make sustained reading difficult, especially for longer texts or complex material.

Information Overload: The abundance of information online can be overwhelming for learners, making it challenging to discern credible sources and effectively process and synthesize information from various sources.

Decline in Reading for Pleasure: With the popularity of video games, social media, and other forms of entertainment, some learners may not prioritize reading for pleasure, which can impact their overall reading skills and comprehension.

**Digital Literacy:** While digital tools offer many benefits for reading, such as access to a wide range of texts and multimedia resources, learners still need to develop digital literacy skills to navigate and critically evaluate online content.

**Language and Vocabulary Skills:** In an increasingly globalized world, learners may encounter texts in different languages or with vocabulary that is unfamiliar to them, which can pose challenges for comprehension.

Most of these problems arise due to Covid-19 pandemic where learners use their mobile gadgets to pursue their studies.

Educators need to address these problems and help learners read and comprehend. Teaching reading must adjust to the current condition of the learning environment.

The teacher needs to assess learners' level of difficulty to create a learning plan since reading tends to be boring for learners. Once the assessment is done, the teacher will be able to identify possible reading interventions that suit the condition of the struggling reader. Reading should be fostered and mastered at the high school level.

The most important task for teachers is for learners to develop a love for reading. The boredom they once felt should be replaced with a love to read and comprehend reading pieces from basic to complex continuously.

The 21st Century learners already acquired these problems, so we educators should take action. Will we not move? What can you do to help them?

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