

COMPREHEND TO SUCCEED: EMPOWERING GRADE 3 LEARNERS THROUGH READING

by:

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Reading comprehension is an essential skill that forms the foundation of both continuous learning and academic achievement. Strengthening reading comprehension skills is particularly important to third graders since it signals the change from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." At this age, learners should be able to comprehend and evaluate texts on a variety of topics in addition to decoding words. Enhancing understanding abilities at this stage contributes to future academic success and personal growth.

In primary education, grade three is often considered as an important year. In subjects like Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies, learners are exposed to more challenging texts. Learners may find it difficult to understand new ideas, follow directions, and participate in critical thinking exercises if they lack sufficient reading comprehension abilities. The National Reading Panel (2000) asserts that reading comprehension is critical to academic success in all subject areas.

The ability of learners to evaluate, deduce, and link concepts is improved by reading comprehension. Learners in Grade 3 develop the ability to think beyond words' literal meanings as they analyze texts. They hone their questioning techniques and acquire the abilities necessary for higher-order thinking, such as recognizing the primary idea, supporting details, cause and effect, and sequence of events (Duke & Pearson, 2002).

Learners are more likely to love reading and become lifelong readers when they comprehend what they read. A deeper engagement with texts results from comprehension, and this in turn develops a love of reading and education. According to

the International Literacy Association, children's perspective about reading and learning in general are shaped by their positive primary school reading experiences.

The development of language and vocabulary is aided by reading comprehension. Through usage and cues, third graders learn to infer meaning as they come across unfamiliar phrases in context. Their comprehension is strengthened, and they can increase their working vocabulary—a vital aspect of academic performance and communication (Beck, McKeown, & Kucan, 2002).

Teachers and parents may use different methods to empower students with reading such as asking open-ended questions as it encourage learners to elaborate on their responses and include contextual information to back up their arguments. Using visual aids like graphic organizers also support learners in structuring their thoughts and helping them retain important details. In addition, connecting texts to real life becomes more relevant and relatable when stories are connected to daily experiences.

It is essential to invest in reading comprehension education for third graders. In addition to enhancing academic achievement, this ability helps young learners' general cognitive, emotional, and social development. To create comprehensive and meaningful reading experiences that develop comprehension, and an endless love of learning, educators, parents, and school communities must work together.

References:

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