

## READING: THE GATEWAY TO LEARNING

by:

**Marjory L. Morales**

*Teacher III, San Benito Elementary School*

Mastering literacy is the pivotal cornerstone of basic education as it empowers individuals to access knowledge, think critically and cultivate a lifelong passion for learning. The development of reading skills typically begins in early childhood. Some children learning to read at home before they even start formal education, thanks to the support and guidance of their families.

As stated by Vygotsky, youngsters' knowledge acquisition is most efficient when it is purposeful, useful, and emerges organically from interpersonal connections and communal bonds. Basically, reading is not merely confined to interpreting texts but also gasping the meaning of what you peruse.

A pressing concern for instructors today is the subpar academic achievement of student, which is largely close to their struggles with reading: exacerbated by a lack of comprehension skills, leaving with many with little to no understanding of the material.

The issue of struggling readers is evident not only in national assessment results, but also in daily classroom observations. Many students' reading skills lag significantly behind their grade level, often reading in a labored, word-by-word or syllable-by-syllable manner. This poses a significant challenge for teachers, particularly in English classes, when comprehension skills are difficult to develop fluency is severely impaired. Moreover, this struggle can hinder progress across various subject areas, underscoring the need for targeted support to help struggling readers catch up and succeed in the classroom.

The practice of promoting non- readers to higher grade levels creates tension among teachers across different levels. This approach perpetuates a cycle of reading skills gaps, where students are ill- prepared for the prerequisites of their current grade level. Ultimately, this systematic issue culminates in the academic institution producing graduates who lack the essential 21st -century skills required to thrive in the workforce and navigate real-life challenges, thereby hindering their prospects and societal contributions. This highlights the fundamental importance of reading as a crucial foundation for learning., underscoring its profound impact on an individual's academic potential. Rather than putting blame, this realization serves as a rallying cry for collective action, urging stakeholders to join forces and support one another in addressing this challenge. As the age-old adage remind us "Many hands make a child's educational journey lighter", emphasizing the need for a collaborative and compassionate approach to ensure every child receives the support they need to succeed.

Ultimately, as teachers, let our passion for learning shine through in the exceptional learners we nurture. As Educators, we must confront the critical question: Does a learners' inability to read fundamentally hinder their capacity to learn? By reflecting on this inquiry, we can reignite our commitment to empowering students with the foundational skills necessary for lifelong learning and success.

#### *References:*

[https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/inability-to-read-inability-to-learn?fbclid=IwY2xjawIGoTpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHbVD9kS3IPge2qdSCZ2qlapoUT1-fmF4At\\_-KpTcJURxrQcwIsF-N5TsKA\\_aem\\_9cd\\_bSFCUSQMjtB2zDp5uQ](https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/inability-to-read-inability-to-learn?fbclid=IwY2xjawIGoTpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHbVD9kS3IPge2qdSCZ2qlapoUT1-fmF4At_-KpTcJURxrQcwIsF-N5TsKA_aem_9cd_bSFCUSQMjtB2zDp5uQ)

[https://online.ewu.edu/degrees/education/med/reading-literacy/reading-](https://online.ewu.edu/degrees/education/med/reading-literacy/reading-comprehension-on-)  
[comprehension-on-](https://online.ewu.edu/degrees/education/med/reading-literacy/reading-comprehension-on-)

[learning/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIJFotleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRkSmuPhsTUV9hvT7Bk8Z\\_p](https://online.ewu.edu/degrees/education/med/reading-literacy/reading-comprehension-on-learning/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIJFotleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRkSmuPhsTUV9hvT7Bk8Z_p1B_JshL6lIPTYDRpzSCM0rZUcfRn5cKathQ_aem_E9mWF1MSNWK-uEVqDp5zvw)  
[1B\\_JshL6lIPTYDRpzSCM0rZUcfRn5cKathQ\\_aem\\_E9mWF1MSNWK-uEVqDp5zvw](https://online.ewu.edu/degrees/education/med/reading-literacy/reading-comprehension-on-learning/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIJFotleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRkSmuPhsTUV9hvT7Bk8Z_p1B_JshL6lIPTYDRpzSCM0rZUcfRn5cKathQ_aem_E9mWF1MSNWK-uEVqDp5zvw)