

## **BUILDING SCIENTIFIC LITERACY: THE ROLE OF READING TEXT FOR IMPROVING GRADE 5 LEARNING COMPETENCIES**

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One of the main objectives of education in the twenty-first century is to provide students with the knowledge and abilities necessary to understand scientific ideas and apply them to actual circumstances. Since scientific literacy lays the groundwork for critical thinking, problem-solving, and well-informed decision-making, it is especially pertinent to fifth graders. One of the finest strategies to encourage scientific literacy is to use reading materials that are based on science. The students will get to learn scientific concepts and enhance their knowledge through the integration of reading choice with the focus on science. The books assist the students to become curious, learn new vocabulary words, and relate what they are learning in school to their daily life.

Reading is essential for understanding as well as academic achievement, studies indicate. Students learn to read fluently as well as develop greater acquaintance with essential scientific concepts when they are taught to read using well-structured science materials. This method ensures that learners understand language as well as scientific meaning by bridging the gap between literacy and content understanding. In addition, reading science books encourages love for learning throughout one's life. Students are motivated to question, make critical examinations of information, and apply scientific concepts for solving everyday problems like technology, health, and the environment. Reading therefore becomes a way of promoting learning of science and literacy among students. Beyond the development of scientific literacy needed to thrive in college and actual life, Grade 5 students can expand reading comprehension skills by reading appropriate and relevant materials.

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