

The Benefits and Pleasures Of Reading

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The habit of reading should be encouraged and developed in all students. Besides giving pleasure to the reader, it has numerous other advantages. The reader gains knowledge, develops a large vocabulary, acquires fluency in written and spoken language and learns how to convey and express his ideas in the best possible manner, it is also the most convenient and fruitful way to spend time.

The electronic media has posed a tough challenge to the practice of reading. Not just students, even the parents prefer watching soap serials and movies instead of doing some serious reading. To the modern teenagers this is an out-dated habit. He does not want to stimulate his mind and let loose the power of imagination. He wishes to have readymade food for his mind, moving pictures on the screen. He does not wish to exert his mind at all, that is why a few decades ago children were not allowed to read comic books or picture stories. They kill the creative mind, besides imparting slang to the child.

Let us discuss the opinion of the enthusiastic reader of the yester years. For him, no place can be more interesting and fascinating than the library. The calm and peaceful ambience relaxes his mind. Reading brings about a tranquility, impossible to achieve in the noisy outside world. The endless rows of books are seen to be a veritable treasure trove, more valuable than King Solomon's riches. And above all it is utter bliss to be curled up in a corner with one's favourite book.

The joys and pleasures of readings are incomparable. What could give more happiness than losing oneself in the classics, the world of fantasy, encountering strange and interesting characters, not only from this world but also from alien worlds? It is no wonder that the young impressionable minds fall in love with the dashing, handsome, swashbuckling character, and this helps in the maturing of their minds. The sensitive teenagers who wept secretly at the sad end of the story, begin to understand real life situations and circumstances.

The good old fashioned habit of reading has another great advantage. Opening a book is like opening a door into the world of knowledge. The knowledge one acquires, the greater the thirst for it becomes. It is an endless pursuit. It gives so much pleasure that it becomes an addiction. Such a person would willingly forgo his meal so that he can read a little more. Sleep eludes him and equips him to face the future and build a career. It also helps in the development of a multi-faceted and positive personality.

A person can be judged by the manner in which he or she speaks or writes. Learning language only through spoken words results in casual and colloquial language. Reading enables a person's speech to be more impressive than his attire.

It has been said that books are a man's best friend. Books console the sad, counsel the confused, impart valuable advice to the innocent, satisfy the curiosity of the inquisitive and also provide entertainment. All this can be experienced simply by cultivating the habit of reading.

The habit of reading should be cultivated in both Young and Old. It keeps a person away from idle gossip. It enhances wisdom, in other words, "Reading makes a man".