



THE MEANING OF READING BOOKS IN ENGLISH FOR IMPROVE THE GENERAL LEVEL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Daniyarova Kamola Abdusattarovna-Teacher

Azamatova Shakhzoda Isomiddinovna-Student

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Abstract: : The main purpose of this article is to show the importance of reading books in elementary schools to improve the general level of English language proficiency of children. It is true that most children know grammar well enough, but unfortunately they lack the necessary skills, such as speaking and reading comprehension, necessary for the overall improvement of the English language. I think that if children take the time in class to read books appropriate to their level, they will probably not only improve their vocabulary, but also acquire important skills that they can use later in their lives. In addition, reading books makes the learning process interesting and exciting.

Key words: vocabulary skills, reading comprehension, grammar structures, critical thinking, understanding, analytical skills.

INTRODUCTION

It cannot be denied that reading books is the most important aspect of human existence. Instilling this habit from a young age plays a fundamental role in fostering an increased interest in literature and encouraging a constant pursuit of knowledge in later years. In the field of learning a foreign language, children of primary school age can gain extensive knowledge through game classes, animation and various alternative ways of learning. In addition, reading literature is a very useful activity. The practice of reading gives students many advantages, some of which will be outlined in this document. In the context of primary education, I argue that the importance of literature classes in the language being studied is immeasurable, especially when young students show a deep desire to acquire knowledge.

General Benefits of Reading Books

As mentioned above, the benefits of reading books are actually numerous. Below I will list a few of them that I think are really suitable and common for almost all primary school students. In addition, it is worth noting that reading books has positive aspects not only for the children themselves, but also for teachers, if they can ever interest their students in reading

“Reading in English is an important part of language learning because it helps you develop other related skills such as grammar, vocabulary and writing. Reading allows language learners to explore topics they like and stories that fascinate them” (John Bostock, 2021). Speaking about the overall benefits for teachers, first of all, what teachers find really useful is that it speeds up the learning process. What I mean by this is, as soon as students start reading various stories and other

books according to their level of language proficiency, they will quickly begin to improve. They will improve all four basic skills of the language being studied. And here teachers will be really happy with their students as they grow faster.

Another feature or advantage of the fact that children read books in or out of the classroom for teachers is that teachers save their time significantly. Since the children will mostly work independently in this process, it is for this reason that the teacher may have the opportunity to save more time while his/her children are reading books. In addition, this time could be spent checking essays, reflections that children write after reading the book.

This technique is designed to help children get used to systematizing their ideas and conclusions, as well as to see their critical thinking and drawing conclusions skills by checking these records. “The more you read, the more things you learn. The more you learn, the more places you will visit.” This is a famous quote from Dr. Bass. And this is 100% accurate. The importance of reading skills cannot be overestimated. As a teacher, I often come across the fact that when I express to my parents my concern about the child's ability to read and understand, especially at the age of about 10 years, parents are completely confused and respond to me: “But they're so small, give them a chance.” When a teacher shows concern in this area, there are good reasons for this. Reading is fundamental to helping us find information and communicate it. This is an important skill that develops at a very young age.” (Adele Keizer, 2021).

Since children mostly train on their own, lessons will become easier and less demanding for the teacher. Because here the training becomes student-oriented and does not require much effort from the teacher.

Taking into account the benefits for the children themselves, here follows the last one, which will show the most common and significant benefits:

- ❖ **Faster learning**
- ❖ **Reading comprehension**
- ❖ **Increase in vocabulary**
- ❖ **Improvements in using grammar structures**
- ❖ **Overall growth in the language**
- ❖ **Enhancement of the 4 basic skills**
- ❖ **Fluency of the speech**
- ❖ **Development of critical thinking & judging**
- ❖ **Increase in having ideas**

I believe that all these mentioned benefits show the importance of reading books and why it should be the top priority of every child in primary school. These benefits come over time through practice. To achieve these impressive results, it would be better if the teacher helped the children choose the right books and helped them in the learning process.

“A child's reading skills are important for their success in school, as they will allow them to access a wide range of educational programs and improve their communication and language skills. In addition, reading can become an exciting pastime for imaginative children, which opens doors to all sorts of new worlds for them.” (NA International School, 2022);

Learning the language being studied by reading

It is a fairly well-known fact that learning can be quite difficult if it is carried out using the wrong strategies. But in order to make it effective, it is necessary to choose the right approaches. There are several ways to choose these mentioned correct approaches, and one of such correct approaches to mastering the target language is reading books. I assume that it is really useful for most students to read books to strengthen their language. Because learning can bring many benefits thanks to easy practice and a short period of time.

When students read, they learn new words and expand their vocabulary, and they will also see the use of new words in sentences in real time. I also believe that the best way to improve reading comprehension and grammar use is to read books. The more information the brain receives, the more active it becomes. It is for this reason that most teachers and education experts recommend children to read various books. “It is widely accepted that people become good readers through reading, and that learning to read should mean focusing on the meaning, not the language of the text. It is quite obvious that in-depth reading helps students become better readers.” (Kiran Donaghy, 2016);

In fact, the decision to read a book is the first step in reading. Further, making this decision brings the final goal one step closer. After that, the key point in reading becomes choosing the right book to read. Choosing a book taking into account the language level of children is extremely important in order for the learning process to be easy and exciting, so that it becomes a habit.

That's why every student must pass a level test before choosing a book. However, in primary schools we know that the target level of language proficiency is A1 or A2. These textbooks help students enjoy learning. Most books of this level are short stories and fairy tales suitable for children. Fairy tales are quite interesting and full of miracles, which easily attracts any child. In general, I believe that the teacher's duty is to help children choose the right book. In addition, children have every right to choose books according to their own interests. For example, some children are interested in romance, while some like action-packed books. I mean, if this strategy is implemented, children will have sufficient motivation to continue their education. “With proper practice, reading books and short stories that match your level can speed up vocabulary replenishment, improve grammar and hone writing skills. Although reading does not directly affect your spoken English, it can improve it to some extent by improving vocabulary, reading aloud and a deeper knowledge base.” (Anil, 2022);

Conclusion.

To conclude, the more the children read different set of books such as mini stories, intermediate level books, the more they will have fun through the learning process and also acquire a lot of new things. Actually, reading books as mentioned is quite important as it could be done independently and assist children as a useful free time activity in their lives.

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