

# The Significance of Reading Books in English to Improve General English in Primary Classes

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**Abstract:** The main aim of this article is to show the essentiality of reading books in primary schools to improve General English of children. It is true that most children know grammar quite well, but unfortunately, they lack the necessary skills like speaking and reading comprehension necessary for overall English improvement. I think if the children spare their time during the class to read books suitable their level, they will probably not only improve their vocabulary, but also critical skills they may use later in their life. As well as, reading books provides the learning process to be interesting and fun.

**Key words:** reading comprehension, vocabulary skills, grammar structures, critical thinking, analytical skills;

## Introduction

It is as clear as day and night that reading books is integral part of our lives and starting them from an early age is what makes us get more interested to them, so that later also we keep studying. Actually, in foreign language, primary school children can learn a lot of things through games, watching cartoon and other ways. But also, reading books is something which is really useful. Practicing reading has numerous benefits to the students which some of them will be mentioned in this paper work. I consider that the importance of reading books in the target language is limitless in primary education especially when children themselves have a great desire for learning.

## The Overall Benefits of Reading Books

As mentioned above, the advantages that comes through reading books are actually numerous briefly. Below, I will count a few of them, which I consider truly appropriate and common for almost everyone in primary classes. Also, it is completely worth mentioning that reading books not only have the plus sides only for children themselves, but also for the teachers if they ever will be able enough to make their students get interested in reading.

“Reading English is an important part of language learning because it helps you develop other related skills like grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Reading allows language learners to explore topics that they love and stories that engage them.” (John Bostock, 2021);

Mentioning the overall benefits for the teachers, first of all, what teachers find really useful is that it makes the learning process faster. What I mean by this, once the students start reading various stories and other books according to their language level, they will quickly start improving. They will improve all the four basic skills of their target language. And here, teachers will get really content with their students as they grow faster.

Another thing or advantage side of making the children read books in the classroom or outside the classroom for teachers is that teachers save their time a lot. Because in this process, children will mostly work independently, for that particular reason, teacher will perhaps have the chance to save more time, while his/her children read books. Additionally, this time could be spent to check the writings, reflections the children write after reading the book. This technique is to help

children to get used to make their ideas and conclusions organized as well to see their critical thinking and conclusion making skills through checking these writings.

“The more you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” This is a famous quote by Dr Suess. And it’s 100% accurate. The importance of reading skills cannot be stressed enough. As a teacher, I often find that when I express my concern about a child’s reading ability and comprehension to parents, particularly at around the age of 10, parents are quite taken aback and I’m greeted with “but they’re so young, give them a chance.” When a teacher shows concern in this area, it is with due cause. Reading is fundamental in helping us find and convey information. It’s an essential skill that’s developed at a very young age.” (Adele Keyser, 2021);

As children mostly practice independently, the lessons will become easier and kind of effortless for the teacher. Because here the learning becomes learner-centered and do not demand a huge amount of effort from the teacher.

**Taking into the consideration of the benefits to the children themselves, here the list comes, in which the most common and mighty advantages will be shown:**

- ❖ ***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 significance of reading books and why it should be the top priority of every child in the primary classes. These benefits come through the practice over time. To achieve these fruity results, it would be better if the teacher helps the children to choose the right books and assist them through the learning process.

“A child’s reading skills are important to their success in school as they will allow them to access the breadth of the curriculum and improve their communication and language skills. In addition, reading can be a fun and imaginative time for children, which opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for them.” (NA International school, 2022);

### **Learning the Target Language through Reading**

It is a quite well-known fact that learning can be quite challenging if it is done through the wrong strategies. But in order to make it efficient, the right approaches should be chosen. There are a couple of ways to choose these mentioned right approaches and one of the such right approaches to acquire the target language is to read books. I assume that most of the learners find it really beneficial to read books to strengthen their language. Because learning is able to have multiple benefits with effortless practice and a short span of time.

When students read, they learn new words and improve their vocabulary and also, they will see the use of the new words in a real time in sentences. I also consider that the best way to improve reading comprehension and grammar use is through reading books. The more information the brain receives, the more active it will become. For that particular reason, most teachers and experts in the education field recommend children to read various books.

“It is widely accepted that people become good readers through reading, and that learning how to read should mean a primary focus of attention on the meaning rather than the language of the text. It is pretty obvious that extensive reading helps students become better readers.” (Kieran Donaghy, 2016);

Actually, deciding to read a book is the first step in reading. Next, having this decision brings the ultimate goal one step closer. After this, it is a key thing in reading to choose the right book to read. Choosing a book taking the children’s language level is extremely significant to provide the learning process with ease and fun to make it a regular habit. That’s why every learner should take

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level-test before choosing a book. However, in primary schools, we know that the target language level is A1 or A2. These level books assist learners with fun learning. Most of these level books are stories and fairy tales suitable for children. Fairy tales are quite interesting and full of miracles, which attracts any child easily. Overall, I believe that it is a teacher's responsibility to help the children to choose the right book. As well, children have the complete right to choose books according to their own interests. For example, some children are interested in romance, while some like action books. I mean in case this strategy is provided, the children have the enough motivation to keep up with learning.

“If practiced correctly, reading books and novels suiting your level can accelerate vocabulary-building, improve grammar, and sharpen writing. Although reading doesn't directly impact your spoken English, it can to some extent improve it through better vocabulary, reading out loud, 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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