Reading Matters in the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

Why Reading Remains Critical to Developing Minds

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Reading Matters in the 21st Century
An Overview

Nurturing 21st Century Readers

Informed Readers
Empathetic Readers
Critical Readers
Engaging the Reading-Thinking Process

• “Reading is the most important--and most misunderstood--part of a child’s elementary journey. It’s the catalyst for everything else.” ML Nichols from *The Parent Backpack for Kindergarten through Grade 5.*

- Reading as Information Processing

- Understanding Your Young Reader
ASPECTS OF THE READING PROCESS

An active search for meaning

The reader uses reasoning.

A constructive process

The reader integrates information.

An application of different kinds of knowledge.

The reader applies knowledge.

A strategic process

The reader adjusts to meet different purposes.
FRAMING THE READING PROCESS

- Relate known to new
- Enter text structure
- Ask questions
- Detect misunderstandings

BEFORE READING  DURING READING  AFTER READING
Values, Beliefs and Attitudes as Reading Matters

-Understanding Character

-Building Character

-Developing Empathy
Reading Matters in the 21st Century

Charles W. Eliot, "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."
Why Reading Really Matters: Making Good Decisions

• Reading and thinking
  – What?
  – So what?
  – Now what?

• Thinking about your thinking – Metacognition
  – Reflect
  – Consider
  – Analyze
  – Decide

• Using information to make sound decisions: The PROP approach
  – Primary or Secondary information - “He said...she said.”
  – Reason to lie - “What does the writer gain by saying this?”
  – Other explanation - “Can you think of an alternative position?”
  – Public or Private Dissemination - “What are the consequences if this leaks out?”
Fostering your Reader

R = Read Aloud to your children
E = Use Enthusiasm and Excitement as you read
A = Accept Any and All reading material
D = Digital Natives need Direction
E = Experience Events around reading
R = Ritual and Routines make a reader

from *The Parent Backpack for Kindergarten through Grade 5*  
by ML Nichols
E-books Advantages and Liabilities

• E-Book Advantages

- Saves time, space, student spines, and trees.
- They are a great aid for the visually impaired due to the ability to increase the size of the print.
- Books stay in print longer because they are not considered inventory.
- Hyperlinks allow the reader to access relevant information related to text being read.
- Audio information is available to support reading of the text.

• E-Book Liabilities

- Research shows we read 6 to 11 percent more slowly from a screen than from paper.
- Science suggests that we comprehend less while reading digital text than printed text.
- More than digital reading, paper reading stimulates areas of the brain dealing with emotional involvement and spatial recall, thus leaving a “deeper footprint.”
- There is greater difficulty sharing or loaning e-books to a group of friends.
- Cost is prohibitive for low-income families.
- Prereading and cognitive framing of story done when accessing covers and back jackets of books are impossible or cumbersome because they are not visually present upon “opening” the e-book. Consequently, these cognitive processes used in making predictions, an essential aspect of comprehension, are compromised.
- Skimming and scanning of text is more difficult with no physical “chunking” of beginning, middle, and end of book. It is harder to navigate because there are no “roadside markers” to guide readers in their referential reading/rereading.
- E-book format may become outdated and a reader can no longer read with your latest version of software.

Resources

- The International Reading Association provides annual lists of favorite children’s books chosen by children (Children’s Choices), young adults (Young Adults’ Choices), and teachers (Teachers’ Choices). You can download them free at the Association’s website, www.reading.org.

Association for Library Service to Children:  
www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/booklists/booklists.cfm

- National Council for the Social Studies:  www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable/
- National Council of Teachers of English:  www.ncte.org/elem/awards/orbispictus
- National Education Association:  www.nea.org/readacross/resources/catalist.html
- Parents’ Choice Foundation:  www.parentschoice.com
- Reading Rockets:  www.readingrockets.org
- Children’s Book Council:  www.cbcbooks.org/reading-lists/
- Goodreads:  www.goodreads.com/
- Bookish:  http: www.bookish.com/
- Center for the Book:  www.read.gov/cfb/
- The Parent Backpack  M.L Nichols
- bbgb – bbgbbooks.com  
  3100 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221  
  (804) 353-5675
- Barnes and Noble Kids Club:  BN.com/kidsclub (12 years or under)
- And, of course...Your local library!