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“The Benefits of Reading Books in English”

Nowadays English Language Teachers who deals with extensive reading outside class conclude that reading is good for English. The students perform better in tests of different kinds (reading, listening, writing etc.. Therefore, that seems to mean – doing lots and lots of reading is the best way to improve your English, rather than studying many different strategies about reading. As Luke Thompson says about it: “It’s the seven P’s: practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice.” I’ve also noted over the years that my students who are booklovers always the ones who progress much faster. To tell the truth, by reading books, you are fast- tracking English into your brain. By following the story, you are practising a number of key reading skills:

1. You’re having to deal with a number of unknown words. However, you don’t let these individual words prevent you from losing the story. You start to guess the meaning of the words;
2. You are improving your spelling and listening, but you should listen and read at the same time for training. It goes without saying, that a lot of books have audiobook versions;
3. By reading a lot from pages to pages, it reinforces collocations, grammatical structures and other lexical patterns;
4. You also learn to detect differences in general meaning;
5. Reading is simply a pleasant and motivating process. You know that feeling when you first start reading a book. Usually the first pages are tricky. However, wait a little bit, it suddenly grips you and you cannot stop to continue reading. I love the atmosphere of a book. It is the ancient form of art. It is s personal.
6. Listening to an audiobook can be great too. The readers are great actors themselves. They are usually the great storytellers. Before the books were written down, stories would have been told by words. Thus, listening to stories is an even more ancient tradition than reading.

For my students’ reading practice in Municipal Comprehensive Establishment “gymnasium ”Dmitrov””, I usually have the books of “Bookworms «collection from levels 1-6. They are here according to the levels:

1. “Monkey’s Paw” by W.W.Jacobs;
2. “Short Stories” by A. Conan Doyle;
3. “The Picture of Dorian Gray” by O.Wilde;
4. “”Treasure Island” by R. L. Stevenson;
5. “The Hound of the Baskervilles” by A. Conan Doyle;
6. “The Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.

The books are not only in paper issues, but also they have audio versions. The essence of this collection is that each level has the certain amount of words, which are repeated through the whole book not only in reading activity but also in listening too. I try to read these variants for improving the students’ vocabulary and speaking in English.

Moreover, the collection is the best variant for achieving splendid pronunciation. In addition, my students and I try to read complete and unabridged books in English. The results are the degrees of the first place in All-Russian competition by Vernadsky in Dmitrov Region 2016 and the first place in All-Russian competition by Vernadsky in Moscow in 2016. The name of this work is “Sisters of Mercy”. This work was completely done in two languages English and Russian. It was highly appreciated by jury. The experts noted about “the original way of exploring the events of history of WWI and WWII in Dmitrov Region”. The student of our gymnasium was A.Shcherkov, 8th Form.

In 2018 in January, the work of the students of the 8th Form was also highly appreciated in All-Russian competition by Vernadsky called “Roald Dahl’s achievement in writing style” and “The mystery of horror fiction”. The students Kursin Maxim, Sarafanov Ivan, Talanova Alexander became the winners of Dmitrov Region and got the opportunity take part in All-Russian competition again, but in Moscow. Other students of our high school also try to show their achievements in reading taking part in annual conferences called “Perspective Project”. The works are done in complete English too. There is a wide range of the themes:

1. “The Arabian Night’s Entertainment”-7th Form;
2. “Tea drinking traditions”-5th Form;
3. “Explorers are most famous for what they didn’t find”- 5th Form;
4. “The Tudor rule is the most glorious period in English history”- 6th Form;
5. “Roald Dahl’s achievement in writing style”-7th Form;
6. “The mystery of horror fiction”-8th Form;
7. “Oliver Cromwell- a Dictator or Hero of Liberty?”-8th Form;
8. “Sisters of Mercy”-8th Form;
9. “Agatha Christie: The Queen of crime and her characters nowadays**”-**8th Form;
10. “The gifted story-teller in «Going Solo””-8th Form;
11. “How to deal with Stress”-9th Form.

Thus, these names of works prove the high interest of students’ reading in English. It is enjoyable. Therefore, you also can choose engaging book, which is written in normal English and can get that satisfaction of finishing it. It is true; there are many benefits in reading, especially, in complete and unabridged English.