

WHY TEACHERS SHOULD READ

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Reading is an intellectualizing agency of the world today. Teacher or no teacher, one reads to know the world around him. Like it or not, reading in matter in the form of books, magazines, pamphlets, outlines, and periodicals abound touching on the many-sided interests of man from the smallest particle of dust to the sun. It has increased both in number and kind. Man should measure up with the ever-changing conditions of life and society. While one may be sitting in a corner of his house, yet he may acquaint himself with the happenings taking place at the other side of the globe through reading. Without going away from his habitation, through vicarious reading, he gains access into the lives of people of different countries near and far. He learns to interpret and reason out things for himself. In fact, through extensive reading, one travels much faster, and more economically than through some of the modern means of communication. And is it not more pleasurable, too? To one who is and wants to be considered an intellectual, reading is an indispensable adjunct to complete living. Reading provides for continuous extension and enrichment of experience, through reading. One increases his enjoyment and appreciation of life through reading newspapers and magazines. He learns of customs, ideologies and social conventions of different nationalities. Wide reading is an index of man's progress. After reading, he compares and weighs the merits of various ideas gained. Reading broadens everybody's views and

thus becomes democratic and tolerant, instead of being narrow-minded and a monomaniac. Hardly will you find a man successful in life unless he is a well-read man. Wide reading places him in a better light in all levels of society.

As Opportunity for Growth

Especially to the teachers, reading affords a great opportunity for growth. Reading places the teacher always on the level. He improves in the use of the language itself and keeps him up-to-date. He keeps pace with the world changes and has a ready source of information for any eventuality.

As teachers, in fairness to the pupils he comes in contact with everyday, and to the profession, he must read to supplement whatever knowledge he has. A teacher who doesn't read may be termed unfaithful, to put it mildly, both to the pupils and the calling to which he has dedicated himself at least while in active service. It is doubted how far a teacher goes in teaching if he does not have a reading program for himself. To a progressive teacher, reading must be recognized as essential and significant.

The teacher must take stock of the varied reading matter in all subject fields. That he is not teaching a certain subject is no reason he should not read on that subject. A well-read teacher can better elaborate on the substance of the subject in question through systematic correlation and integration.

"Every teacher a reading teacher" seems to gain recognition in a modern program of reading instruction. As such, a teacher is expected to give effective training to his pupils on the various skills in reading. With the little time people have due to the multifarious things they attend to keep pace with the fast tempo of present-day life, it is imperative that the young minds be directed carefully in their study. The school is expected to produce individuals who can direct themselves as learners. Pupils should be trained to locate, select, read economically with purpose, interpret and evaluate given facts in the light of their experiences.

In any community, a teacher occupies a relatively high social position. People look up to him in most matters requiring further elucidation. They take it for granted that the teacher is one of the best, if not the best, educated man in the community. Such a confidence should be maintained by the teacher who should at all times be kept posted on world events. To a common question,

Is it true there will be another war? a teacher can do much to keep the minds of the people in peace if he can give a broad and intelligent interpretation of daily events.

Finally, the teacher should keep himself professionally alive. Stop reading and mental deterioration begins. Learning is a continuous process, from birth, some claim even before it, to senility. He lives most who reads most. Not all education is obtained in schools. How many have been self-made men through reading vicariously? And may we not say, too, that reading makes the man?

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