WHY READ?

Ten Reasons[1]

By Kelly Gallagher, Deeper Reading, 2004

"When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow."

"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born..."

"The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon."

"When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home."

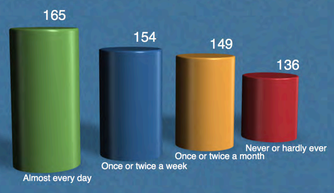
Reading is rewarding.

20 minutes of reading per day per year...

...over a million words per year. [3]

Reading builds a mature vocabulary

Students who read for fun score higher on standardized writing tests.
(Grade 12 in 2005: Scores range from 0-300) .



Reading makes you a better writer.

"If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."
-Stephen King

"One characteristic emerges as a significant predictor of success...
Grit.
Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals.
Grit is having stamina.
Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality."
(Angela Lee Duckworth)

Reading is hard and "hard" is necessary.

Reading prepares you for the world of work.

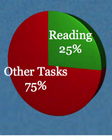
"The 25 fastest growing professions have far greater than average literacy demands." [7]

- *Software Programmer*
- *Physical Therapist*
- *Health Aide*
- *Dental Hygienist*
- *Physician Assistant*
- *Engineer*
- *Network Analyst*
- *Personal Care Aide*
- *Veterinary Tech*
- *Medical Secretary*

Almost 50% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty. [2]

14.5% of Americans with poor reading skills are underemployed. [4]

In the business world, a person typically spends two hours a day reading. [5]



Reading well is financially rewarding.

25-40% of all children will have their educational careers cut short because they cannot read well enough. [6]

Reading opens the doors to college and beyond.

Only 52% of students in 2012 were ready for college-level reading as predicted by the ACT. [8]

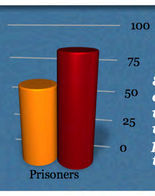
"Reading is an essential component of college and workplace readiness." [8]

And 11% of entering college students must take remedial reading courses. [8]

70% of those taking the remedial classes fail to earn a college degree within eight years. [8]

Reading arms you against oppression.

Over 60% of prison inmates are functionally illiterate. [4]



85% of juvenile offenders are unable to read well enough to participate in their case. [4]

Reading develops a moral compass.

"Reading has cognitive consequences that extend beyond its immediate task of lifting meaning from a particular passage." [9]

Reading makes you smarter.

1 Gallagher, K. (2004). Deeper Reading: Comprehending Challenging Texts, 4-12. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

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8 ACT, Inc. (2006). Reading Between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals about College Readiness in Reading. Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc. Retrieved from http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/reading_summary.pdf

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