

Theme: Pearson English Graded Readers

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Don't refresh the page, refresh yourself - reading in a digital world.

Abstract

Replacement and enhancement are norms in a digital world, but isn't there a danger that some fundamentals get left behind? Extensive reading can really help students expand their word knowledge, improve writing and grammar scores and lead to a richer vocabulary. Let's look at the role of ELT Graded Readers in the 21st century classroom.

Summary

21st century learning skills call for us to provide our students with environmental literacy, financial literacy, health literacy, media literacy and ICT literacy amongst others. Before we can cover these we have to ensure that learners have the basic literacy to process all this information. September the 8th is national literacy day and UNESCO reminded us last year that there are still 750 million adults that can't read or write.

We all know that promoting reading in school and at home helps learners to develop rich vocabulary. In turn, a broad vocabulary and the ability to read well, enhance the possibilities for learner autonomy.

In 2014, Time magazine published research from Common Sense Media that showed not only that reading rates decline as kids get older (which we've known for some time) but that they've also dropped significantly over the last 30 or so years. The same report showed that parents are also reading to their younger kids (2-7 year-olds) less than ever, showing a drop from 45 minutes per day in 1999 to just over 30 minutes in 2013.

Extensive reading both inside and outside the classroom can have an impact on both language acquisition and overall academic performance and the role that graded readers can play in bridging the literacy gap shouldn't be under-rated. This session will look at how we can encourage learners to enjoy the pleasure of reading and help them progress faster through the use of some fresh and exciting activities for graded readers.