

10 Reasons Why Reading Is Important (for kids AND adults)



1. Kids who read often and widely get better at it. This is pretty much just common sense. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything we humans do and reading is no different.
2. Reading exercises our brains. Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain than, say, watching TV is. Reading strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.
3. Reading improves concentration. Again, this is a bit of a no-brainer. Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they're reading. If they read regularly as they grow up, they develop the ability to do this for longer and longer periods.
4. Reading teaches children about the world around them. Through reading, they learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world which may be different from those which surround them. This learning is important for its own sake however it also builds a store of background knowledge which helps younger children learn to read confidently and well.



5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary, leads to more highly-developed language skills and improves the child's ability to write well. This is because children learn new words as they read but also because they unconsciously absorb information as they read about things like how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination. This is because when we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. When we're engaged in a story, we're also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

7. Reading helps kids develop empathy. This is something I've only recently realized but it makes sense. As my fifteen-year-old son said to me when we were discussing it, 'Of course it does because you're identifying with the character in the story so you're feeling what he's feeling.'

8. Because reading does all the things I've mentioned above, children who read do better at school. And they don't just do better at subjects like reading, English and history. They do better at all subjects and they do better all the way through school.

9. Reading is a great form of entertainment! A paperback book doesn't take up much space so you can take it anywhere and you'll never be lonely or bored if you have a book in your bag. You can read while waiting for a friend who's running late or during a flight delay at an airport.

10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind. This is an important point because these days we seem to have forgotten how to relax and especially how to be silent.

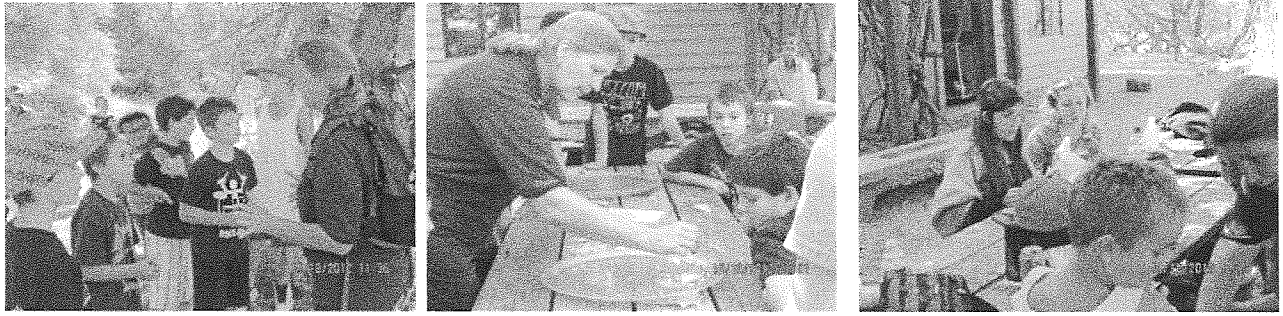
The constant movement, flashing lights and noise which bombard our senses when we're watching TV, looking at a computer or playing an electronic game are actually quite stressful for our brains. When we read, we read in silence and the black print on a white page is much less stressful for our eyes and brains.

So there you have it – the Top 10 benefits of reading

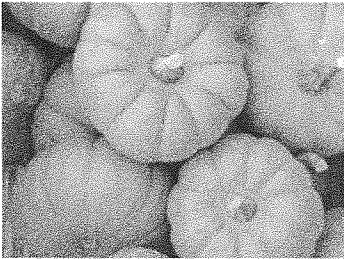
~ Our first field trip was October 18th. We went to the Placer Nature Center. The program was "Stream Swimmers Fifth Grade" Through hands-on experimentation students determined the special qualities of water and the importance of water quality in natural ecosystems. Thanks to all the volunteers who drove to the center;

Mrs. Jimenez, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Tolle, and Mrs. Winfield.

We had a great time!



Placer Nature Center Field Trip Adventure!



Halloween is just around the corner!

– Watch for information about our upcoming Halloween parade and the classroom Halloween luncheon next Wednesday! Mrs. Estep has offered to put together the luncheon on Halloween Day! She has sent out notices on what she needs.

If you have any G or PG Halloween movies please send them in and we will vote as a class which one we will watch that afternoon!



Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are just around the corner! They are scheduled for November 13th, 14th and 15th. The conference notices with specific time and dates for each student will be sent home today. Please sign and return the bottom portion as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your child's progress.



KCRA3 Kids Can! Food Drive

October 15th – November 16th

- . Support the KCRA 3 Kids Can Food Drive and you'll help feed hungry families in your community.
 - . Bring canned and non-perishable food items to school.
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Trade Day Fair: Economics in a Day - Thursday, November 8, 2011



Your children are studying about Exploration and Colonization. One of the activities that brought early Europeans and Native peoples together was trade. Money wasn't used, wares or goods were. To give your children a sharper understanding of trading and bartering, we are going to have a Trade Day Fair! On that day, Thursday, November 8, 2012, your child should bring some handcrafted/homemade wares to school. The children may bring as much or as little as they like, but *they must bring something*. These items should be made from found items around your home or neighborhood. Your child should do the work with some guidance, and your child should clean up any mess!

Suggested Items:

Friendship bracelets	Yarn Pom Poms
Stationary	Button Pulls
Clay beads	Pressed Flowers
Cookies	Book Marks
Hair Decorations	Shells
Note pads	Plants
Pencil Toppers	Flowers

Objectives:

As a result of this lesson the students will:

1. Develop an awareness and appreciation for bartering.
 - a. Create wares
 - b. Trade wares
2. Experience the law of supply and demand
3. Evaluate their experience with beginning economics

Trade Fair:

1. Students display their wares on their desk and describe them prior to the Trade Fair starting.
2. Rules; Take nothing off of anyone's desk.
Be considerate