IMPORTANCE OF READING COMPREHENSION
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Reading is one of the basic skills that each learner should be able to develop. Through this, he can be a person who has the ability to empower himself and be a productive individual in different discipline of life. Moreover, the ability to read and comprehend is the main goal of the educational process to develop the child holistically.

Most often than not, there are children who can read, but the ability read and reading comprehension are two different things. Reading itself is the capability to translate phonic symbols and text to produce sounds and spoken words while reading comprehension is the ability to take into deeper meaning from what had just read.

In the context of the K to 12 curriculum, reading comprehension is an integral part of the learner's success, when these graduates of the senior high school program landed a job, having excellent comprehension skills is vital. If for instance, their employer gave those documents or even directions, how can they fully understand it if there is no comprehension, therefore, comprehension greatly affects and helps the learners to develop intellectually, socially and professionally.

Reading comprehension is not only fundamental in English and Filipino subjects, but in other subject areas as well. Rutzler (2017) made mentioned of the following areas where reading comprehension is of equal importance.

- **Science and Health** – the ability to integrate reading comprehension is importance in different science process such as communicating, classifying, measuring, inferring, and predicting. How can they effectively follow these process if there is no comprehension at all?
- **Mathematics** – giving the children a Worded Math Problem is the best method to develop their critical thinking, reasoning, formulating and finding the correct answers, but how they can do it if they struggle to determine what is being asked and stated in the problems.
- **Araling Panlipunan** - Philippines is very rich in historical data, whether heroes, places, events and phenomena, these will not be fully understood by the learners if comprehension is not evident.

Courtney (2017) suggested ways to improve a child reading comprehension:
• Ask Questions — asking questions before, during and after will help you to make sure that the children will fully understand what they read.

• Make Connections — relating the content of the story into real life situations would probably help to develop reading comprehension. The possibility of sharing their experiences in the context of the story is high, thereby developing comprehension as well.

• Create a Visual — most of the children are creative, they are fun of drawing, acting, moving and the like, let them do it as for them to visualize what they read, this will help them to get a clearer understanding of what is happening.

• Make inferences and predictions — ask them to make an ending or continuation of the story read, post a questions of what if? What will happen next? What do you think is the ending? Are they will leave happily ever after? This will make the child ponder and eventually create prediction that could help to improve their reading comprehension.

As a whole, to develop the reading comprehension of our children, we may use stories or other interventions suited to their intellectual levels. Creating a story map which will help them to take notes of the plot, characters, challenges, series of events and conclusions will make up their reading comprehension. Be patient enough to develop their minds and give them the gift of knowledge, the gift of understanding.

References:
