REASONS BEHIND A NON-READER STUDENT

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Non-readers or students who failed to master the skill of reading are one of the perennial problems in the English Department. The development of reading skill is one of the main objectives in early education, that reading must be learned at the very young age. It is often perceived that a child who failed to read at a young age will have difficulty in developing the said skill. Students with literacy problem will be having a hard time to perform in school. Often times, these students have a higher percentage to drop from their classes due to stress and low self-esteem.

Moreover, there are different reasons behind a non-reader. In public schools, students with literacy problem are not assessed by a professional due to lack of fund. Some students are experiencing learning difficulty such as dyslexia, visual impairment, attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These students need special training and program in order to learn the basics.

However, there are students who are not mentally incapacitated, but they are experiencing difficulty in reading. According to some studies conducted by researchers there are various reasons why these students are experiencing a hard time in reading. These reasons include the following below:

1. Students are experiencing pain in their head and eyes while reading.

   Teachers must be aware of the signs that the student has a light sensitivity as he read. Squinting, frowning, rubbing of the eyes and holding the book very near or far from
their faces are some signs of light sensitivity. Advise the students and parents to seek professional help to correct the problem.

2. Students feel inferior to their classmates who are good at reading.

Teachers are responsible for encouraging the students who feel inferior to their classmates who are good at reading. They have to realize that it is fine to read even in a slow pace as long as they are reading.

3. Students are afraid of giving their opinion

Students are afraid to read thinking that their teachers will ask questions or opinions from them and they will give wrong answers. They are afraid to be humiliated in front of their classmates.

4. Students are not interested in the presented reading materials.

Teachers must know his students, their likes and dislikes when it comes to reading materials so that the teacher may produce or do something to make the materials available for them.

5. Students give up reading because they feel that they are too behind to catch up

Teachers may encourage the students that reading is not about the speed, slow reading is acceptable as long as the student work to improve his reading skills. Let them realize that practice makes them perfect.

Teachers and parents must work hand in hand, they have to monitor the activities of the students that will help them to develop their reading skills. Teachers may create their own reading club to help the students with literacy problems. Reading in a group may develop good camaraderie among students, they can help each other as they meet
problems with the correct spelling, meaning of the words or even how to understand the given texts.

Administrators and teachers work continuously to find ways to help the students in dealing with their problems in literacy.

References: