WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD A COMMUNITY OF READERS?

by:

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Reading by far is one of the most important skills all individuals must master. It is the fundamental ability that enables all to learn and conform to occurrences in the environment. Reading not only entails the decoding string of alphabets forming words and words forming sentences. Reading encompasses not just mere assignment of sound to letters. Symbols rendered in a non-letter or word form also carries information and meaning which are also read. For example, stop lights with blinking red light signals the driver to stop even if there is no word written as stop. In some cases that the sky is suddenly covered with dark clouds and winds start blowing hard, a person might interpret it as a storm coming. These signs are read the same way as we read words. It is the manner of attaching meaning to symbols whether it is in word form or symbols.

Reading is an integral part of an individual. It is fundamental and very important. Having this importance in mind, how can the teacher inculcate the passion for students to read? Mostly, teachers would assign students selections to read and discuss in the classroom only to find out that students did not do their assignments. Why so? This might be explained in the technological advancement of the society. Students are more exposed to real time interaction which is not present in reading long texts. Students want things done in an instant. Reading, on the other hand, requires patience and long hours to be accomplished. Having this situation at hand, what can the teacher device to augment the situation?

One best way that can be suggested is that during the early stages of the child development, children should still be regularly exposed to reading, to books and even to
the library if possible. Technology cannot be simply cut out of the lives of the growing child but it can be integrated properly to the developing mind set together with the passion for reading. Technology and reading must have equal chances of exposure to children. The teacher must foster the environment where students continue the interest for technology and at the same time fuel the passion for reading.

Another aspect to this development is the participation of parents. Parents must also continue at home the training that is initiated by the teacher. Both the teacher and the parent must work hand-in-hand in instilling to the minds of the youth that reading is important and progress depends much on reading.

Another partnership must be established with the community. The barangay must also welcome the thought that reading in the community is a responsibility of the barangay leaders. If the barangay officials wish to have a progressive community, then they should give importance to proper education (focusing on reading). If the constituents are good readers then they will be good followers.

Truly, reading is a very powerful tool in empowering the youth and paving the way for great progress. If this skill is left behind then all other competencies will also have its setbacks. The foundation of learning lies in the ability to read. If a student is a good reader then definitely he/she will be a good learner.

References: