

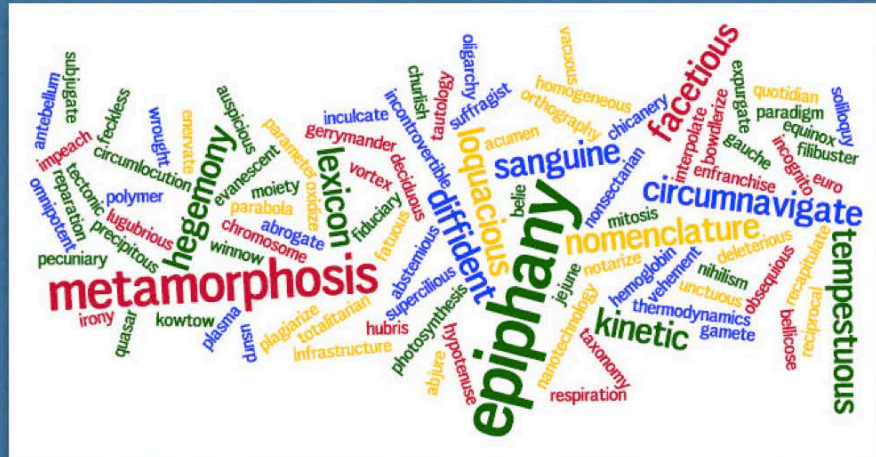
WHY READ?

Ten Reasons¹

By Kelly Gallagher, *Deeper Reading*, 2004

Reading is rewarding.

20 minutes of reading per day per year...



...over a million words per year.³

"When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow."

"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born..."

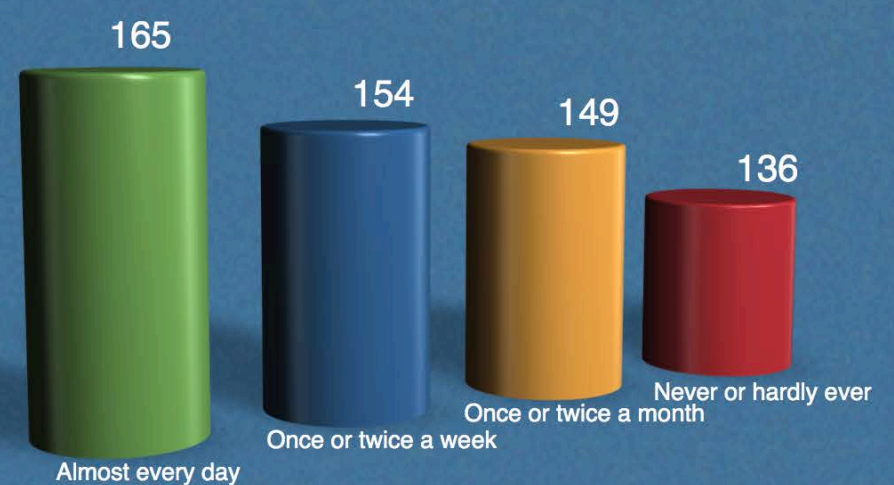
"The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon."



"When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home."

Reading builds a mature vocabulary

Students who read for fun score higher on standardized writing tests. (Grade 12 in 2005: Scores range from 0-300)²



Reading makes you a better writer.

"If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."
-Stephen King

"One characteristic emerges as a significant predictor of success...
Grit.
Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality."
(Angela Lee Duckworth)

Reading is hard and "hard" is necessary.

Reading prepares you for the world of work.

Almost 50% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty.⁴

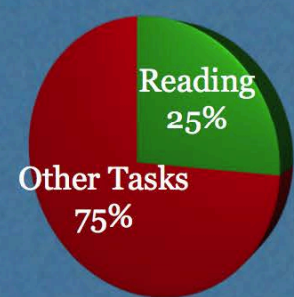


14.5% of Americans with poor reading skills are underemployed.⁴

"The 25 fastest growing professions have far greater than average literacy demands."⁷



In the business world, a person typically spends two hours a day reading.⁵



Reading well is financially rewarding.

Reading opens the doors to college and beyond.

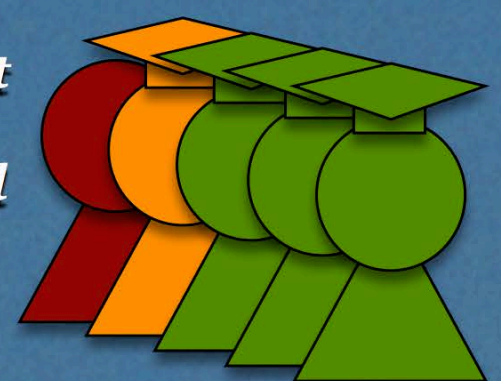
Only 52% of students in 2012 were ready for college-level reading as predicted by the ACT.⁸

"Reading is an essential component of college and workplace readiness."⁸

And 11% of entering college students must take remedial reading courses.⁸

70% of those taking the remedial classes fail to earn a college degree within eight years.⁸

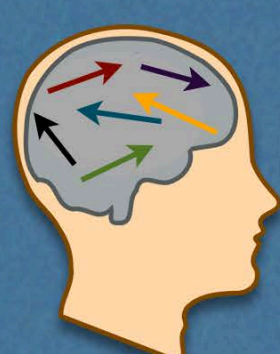
25-40% of all children will have their educational careers cut short because they cannot read well enough.⁶



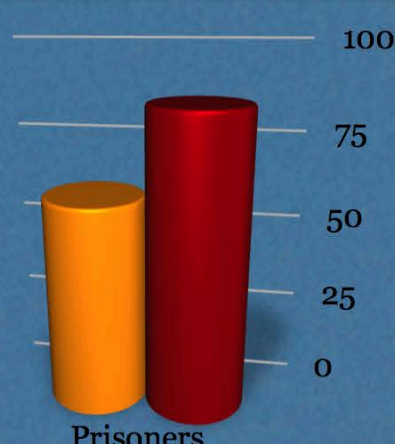
Reading arms you against oppression.

Reading develops a moral compass.

"Reading has cognitive consequences that extend beyond its immediate task of lifting meaning from a particular passage."⁹



Over 60% of prison inmates are functionally illiterate.⁴



85% of juvenile offenders are unable to read well enough to participate in their case.⁴

Reading makes you smarter.

1 Gallagher, K. (2004). *Deeper Reading: Comprehending Challenging Texts*, 4-12. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

2 Gallagher, K. (2009). *Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do about It*. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

3 Nagy, W., and Anderson, R. C. (1984). How many words are there in printed school English? *Reading Research Quarterly*, 19, 304-330.

4 Kirsch, I., Jungeblat, A., Jenkins, L., & Kolstad, A. (2002). *Adult Literacy in America: A First Look at the Findings of the National Adult Literacy Survey*. US Department of Education: Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubinfo.asp?pubid=2003184B3-29DF-4B59-97BD-1F4C66F42F7A>

5 National Endowment for the Arts. (2007). *To Read or Not to Read: A Question of National Confidence* (Research Report #47). Retrieved from <http://www.nea.gov/033184B3-29DF-4B59-97BD-1F4C66F42F7A/FinalDownload/DownloadId-96AF088D835BBA740BF0B7E115329547/033184B3-29DF-4B59-97BD-1F4C66F42F7A/research/ToRead.pdf>

6 The Literacy Company. (2013). *Reading, Literacy & Education Statistics*. Retrieved from http://www.readfaster.com/education_stats.asp

7 Biancarosa, G. and Snow, C. (2004). *Reading Next: A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy*. A Report to Carnegie Corporation of New York. Retrieved from <http://www.all4ed.org/files/ReadingNext.pdf>

8 ACT, Inc. (2006). *Reading Between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals about College Readiness in Reading*. Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc. Retrieved from http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/reading_summary.pdf

9 Cunningham, A. E. and Stanovich, K. E. (1998). What Reading Does for the Mind. *American Educator*. Retrieved from <http://www.aft.org/pdfs/americaneducator/springsummer1998/cunningham.pdf>

Images: <http://www.pdclipart.org/displayimage.php?album=search&cat=0&pos=56>, http://openclipart.lynm.edu.hk/clipart/rejon/rejon_Person_Outline_2.svg, <http://openclipart.org/user-detail/liftam>, and <http://openclipart.org/detail/172392/bicycle-for-our-minds-by-gr8dan-172392>