

Winning Essay

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Some readers often consider books to be an effective way to prepare for a future life, or build a better future. So we are led to ask ourselves: “How can reading be a launch for a new life and a better tomorrow?” This question emphasizes the importance reading has for humanity. Therefore, we are led to ask the following question: How can reading be an effective means of changing life, and building a better future? This said, the consideration of this query demands, without a doubt, that we analyze reading in turn as a means of changing one’s life and also that we show that reading constitutes a building plan for a better future.

Reading constitutes a means of changing the reader’s life through its educational nature, and condemnation of social faults.

From the outset, reading constitutes a factor of social adaptation because it informs us of all that is useful in the world. Through books, we can see ourselves; books are therefore a mirror to judge ourselves. In fact it is this informative aspect of books which raises Romain Rolland when he says that, “we read ourselves in books, either to discover ourselves or to control ourselves.” This means that reading can change the world; it is therefore a forum where human conditions are conveyed. Otherwise, books show us the wrongs which eat away at society, so that nobody can call themselves innocent. Therefore there exist works such as Balafon by Engelbert Mveng, which evokes human problems such as war, insecurity, and social disorder. Reading this book which intersperses harmony, peace, order and human progress, will lead mankind to cultivate all of these virtues.

Furthermore, reading books also seems to be an essential part of culture because it enriches one’s knowledge. Through reading we are informed about other men and their condition in life. Indeed, in reading works which condemn inhuman living conditions, we convey a new way of life, one that can fulfill people: this is the example given in Plato’s work entitled The Apology of Socrates which condemns social injustice, vanity, intolerance, and social wrongs.

In addition, reading advocates intelligence because it is completely profitable and formative. Because of this, we are armed against certain social faults, and reading leads to action. Furthermore, it is through reading that individuals acquire knowledge to warn men against irresponsible behavior, notably conflicts, immorality, barbarity and encourages men to adopt attitudes which contribute to a better, more livable world. It is even the case in From Mediocrity to Excellence, by the Cameroonian philosopher Ebenezer Njoh Mouelle, the book in which the author paves the way for development to prepare future generations. His book calls out to men to be aware or else sink into chaos and poverty.

All in all, this analysis shows that reading constitutes a launch towards a new life to the extent that it informs us of and condemns the wrongs which plague society. In fact, is reading not also a guide to building a better future?

Reading is like a forum where a person is spurred into action against the obstacles to his fulfillment.

From the outset, the reader finds through reading the necessary means to form his own way of thinking, and his own world view. In Balafon by Engelbert Mveng, the worship of tolerance, friendship

and brotherhood is an indispensable means to right the wrongs: hate and racism. The reader finds himself sufficiently equipped to fight social curses. Jean Paul Sartre rightly declared: "I give my support to help men extricate themselves from barbarity so they can progress." In other words, literary works help mankind to progress, so it is only through reading that we can gain access to lessons which allow us to correct ourselves and change.

Similarly, reading allows men to envision society's reconstruction by offering him a way to do it. In the book Afrikaba'a by Remy Gilbert Medou Mvomo, the worship of work, incarnated in the character called Kambara, contributed to the emergence of his village, which was stuck in misery. Reading remains a way to eradicate curses such as poverty, and to advocate for the development of a region. In this same village, reading builds a better future. The philosopher Ebenezer Njoh Mouelle demonstrates in his book From Mediocrity to Excellence, that the development of African states is only possible if men are well educated and learned, he shows that education is a path to leaving behind Africa's underdevelopment, and paving the way for future generations.

Even more so, books are a means of ending illiteracy and pushing ourselves towards the development of sciences and technology. Reading is like a wise man in charge of leading the world towards a better future, this is why Charles Mauras affirms that, "The writer needs to bring to the world a list of grievances and a reconstruction plan." Taken to the letter, books are a way to fix social problems.

All in all, based on what was previously stated, reading builds a better world, given the fact that it teaches moral lessons and corrects social faults.

In the end, our test allowed us to review the importance of reading. We have shown that on one hand reading is an effective way to start a new life, and on the other hand it is a way to build a better future. So reading appears to be more important because it allows us to eradicate social wrongs, so as to build a better tomorrow on a solid foundation. In fact would mankind not benefit from building a better future when they give themselves to reading?