

Winning Essay

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Abandoned in favor of technological evolution, today reading has become an activity for the elderly, and those passionate about the literary Renaissance. The current generation, the one coming of age, has practically turned away from this activity, despite the fact that it is educational and important to an academic environment and even everyday life. This leads us to ask ourselves the following question: How can reading be a launch towards a better future? In other words, how does reading contribute to the fulfillment of mankind? The problem in the subject is that of the importance of reading, and to conduct our work it would be judicious to answer the following question: To what extent does reading contribute to the betterment of the human condition?

To say that reading consists of a way of attaining a better future, is to affirm that it sets out to better the condition of the realm of mortals. Indeed, activists' work condemns everyday problems and offers solutions. Also, faced with a reoccurrence of the problems, writers, through literary means, bring attention to the wrongs of society and suggest changes. Reading alone can make all of these solutions known, and by this, change the lives of mankind.

The other purpose of reading is that it participates in the betterment of morals, reading classic tragedies for example. The objective of the theatrical genre is to purge the soul, to eradicate all kinds of excessive passion which could lead man to perdition. Thus this literary sub-genre has a moral function because it clears our conscience, and brings it peace and serenity.

Reading is also a moment of escape. To start with, its etymology, literature means beautiful letters; it therefore has a fun purpose. This moment of escape allows men to be entertained, to relax, and even to travel, because by reading we are transported to another world, we see other cultures with the characters in the book. How do all of these arguments hold out against literary works?

Indeed, activist works such as A Dry White Season by Andre Phillipus Brink, published in 1979, puts forward the idea of eradicating a profound wrong which was ruining society. During the 80s, South Africa had for years endured the suffering that apartheid inflicted. Thanks to this type of literary work and the South African's will to live in peace and serenity, apartheid was eradicated.

Also, classic tragedies, whose goal is to purify the soul, to convince the reader not to imitate the vicious people underlined in the play; this is the case of Jean Racine's Britannicus, a book written in 1669. Indeed, Agrippina, Nero's mother (Nero is Britannicus' brother by marriage), proves to be greedy from the beginning to the end of the story. She is prepared to remove and even kill all those who block her path, going so far as to eliminate Claudius her husband, Britannicus' father.

We also have other plays such as The Doctor in spite of Himself by Jean Baptiste Bocquelin called Moliere, which has us live with Sganarelle and Martine, and all of their adventures for example bring us with them to the world of stolen medicine. In brief, reading in general brings men to a material and most of all moral development.

At this point in our analysis, we can say that reading condemns problems which ruin society. The content of literary works has a curative purpose, which is purifying. While writing their books, writer's goals are to educate, warn, or entertain. Reading alone allows all of the solutions suggested by authors to be put at the disposition of all. It allows to get rid of society's wrongs and even eradicate them completely.

In terms of our analysis, which was about the importance of reading, we have been able to see that reading educates, warns, purifies, and entertains. It is a means for a better future because, for the current generation, it keeps the mind working constantly, it stimulates one's intelligence and doesn't allow it to

fall into vice. Also, reading allows young people to acquire certain wisdom. This is why Cheikh Anta Diop said: "A youth who has read one hundred books is equal to an elder who has travelled one hundred villages." Thus reading, in addition to waking young people's intelligence, allows them to acquire other knowledge.