

## Winning Essay

Kolla Olive Haranga

Lycee Classique de Yagoua

For many people reading is a source of knowledge, happiness, and well being. This is probably the reason for which a contemporary will praise reading by saying that it “constitutes a launch for a new life and a better tomorrow.” This to say that reading is a source of happiness and can change life for a better future. Thus the literary problem with which we are faced is that of the importance of reading in life. After this difficulty (literary problems), we can ask ourselves what could be the importance of reading? To find the answers to this query, we will see in our work in what ways reading is advantageous and what its limitations are.

Reading can be considered a source of knowledge. When we look at A Dry White Season by Andre Brink, we can see that the author is telling us about Apartheid which took place in South Africa. This for example, could be used to teach in a history class. We can therefore say that, it is by reading that we discover a lot of things we didn't know. A contemporary supports this idea by saying that, it is in books that the knowledge is found; to then say that it is in books that we access knowledge and learning. Reading can also be considered a source of entertainment in the sense that, finding yourself absorbed in work that is going to your head, you want to free yourself a little bit. We can use the example of a man who, during a break at work, wanting to distract himself, a little reading could mean a lot to him. When we are lost in memories, reading can allow us to distract ourselves in order to forget our worries. Otherwise we can say that reading also has the role of liberator. For example, in the great literary work of Joseph Ngoue entitled The Southern Cross, we can note the courage and devotion of Wilfried Hotterman, as well as the determination of her daughter Judith to want to wash the South (an anonymous southern town) of its imperfections which are all caused by the town's racist inhabitants. Thus, a person can use these weapons to free their country from this type of imperfection. However, given the praise received until now, shouldn't we check to see if reading has its limits?

Reading also has its limits and is not completely advantageous. This can be seen through Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert who, in his book presents us a woman whose psyche was seriously troubled because, from her early childhood until her adolescence even, she read a lot of novels and deluded herself into believing her life resembled those in the novels she had read. This pushed her to be unfaithful to her husband who didn't respond to her expectations.

In addition, reading can constitute a risk in the sense that readers draw the wrong conclusions at the end of their read. An example which can illustrate this idea: a child, after having read in a book that a young man ended his father's life because he didn't meet his needs, could do the same thing if he found himself in the same situation. So it is not necessary to provide a solution to all the contempt and praise directed towards reading?

To sum up, we can say that reading is on the one hand advantageous, and on the other hand is a risk. However, if there is one thing to remember, it is that at the end of every read, it is judicious to draw good conclusions from our readings to avoid causing damage because we have not grasped the message in the book we have read.

In the end, our work consisted of finding answers to the question of the importance of reading in life. It should be noted that reading is in some way advantageous, but also has its limits. So it is necessary for each reader to draw good conclusions at the end of each read, and remember good lessons. However, what to say of illiterate people who can't read, much less write when so many love reading and praise it?