



TI-AIE

Promoting reading for pleasure

Secondary English

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What this unit is about



My students often have to read long passages in English such as those in the supplementary reader. I know that these are supposed to encourage students to enjoy reading, and to read in English outside school. However, my students are not very interested in these passages and they don't seem to enjoy reading in English very much. How can I help them to enjoy reading? And how can I encourage them to read in English outside school?

Encouraging students to enjoy reading is beneficial to them because it can stimulate and excite their imagination and curiosity. There is a wealth of literature available in English and being able to read in English allows your students to access this. Reading in English can teach your students new skills and ideas, and bring them to understand more about the world and different cultures.

When students read in English, they see examples of words and grammatical structures being used in many different ways. This helps them to improve their own vocabulary and grammar use. The more students read, the better they become at reading in any language: 'reading is a transferable skill. Improving it in one language improves it in others' (National Curriculum Framework, 2005, p. 39). However, many students don't enjoy reading in English, and they don't read much English beyond the passages in the textbooks or supplementary readers.

This unit describes how you can design classroom activities that create opportunities for students to engage in more sustained reading in English using both the supplementary reader and other texts.

What you can learn in this unit

- Classroom activities to create opportunities for students to read longer passages in English.
- Ways to encourage students to read in English beyond the classroom.

1 Stimulating students' interest in reading longer passages in English

Students at secondary level are expected to read many long passages in English, for example plays or passages in the supplementary reader. These are some of the plays and passages from NCERT textbooks for Classes IX and X:

- **The Happy Prince:** This is a fairy tale written by the Irish writer Oscar Wilde and published in 1888. The 'happy prince' in the story is a statue decorated with gold leaves and precious stones. The prince looks out over a city where many people are suffering. He asks a swallow to take his gold and jewels to help the poor. The swallow agrees, but dies from the cold while doing so. This breaks the prince's heart. An angel takes the swallow and the prince's heart to paradise to meet God. (This fairy tale is available in the NCERT textbook *Moments: Supplementary Reader in English for Class IX.*)
- **The Accidental Tourist:** This is an extract from a book by the contemporary American writer, Bill Bryson. The author describes his experiences as a traveller. He writes about humorous things that have happened to him on aeroplanes, such as knocking a drink over the person sitting next to him, or dropping the contents of his bag. (This extract is available in the NCERT textbook *Moments: Supplementary Reader in English for Class IX.*)
- **The Proposal:** This is a play written by the Russian writer Anton Chekhov in 1888–9. Ivan Lomov, a wealthy neighbour of Stephan Chubukov, comes to propose to Stephan's daughter, Natalya. At the meeting, Ivan and Natalya quarrel about everything and almost forget about the proposal. Natalya agrees to marry, and the quarrelling continues. (This play script is available in the NCERT textbook *First Flight: Textbook in English for Class X.*)
- **The Hack Driver:** This is a short story written by the American writer Sinclair Lewis in 1923. It is about a young lawyer who is looking for a witness in a law case, a man named Oliver Lutkins. He hires a driver and they look all over the town for Lutkins, but can't find him. In the end, the lawyer discovers that the driver is in fact Lutkins, the man he is looking for. (This story is available in the NCERT textbook *Footprints without Feet: Supplementary Reader in English for Class X.*)

