

ADVANTAGES OF USING SHORT STORIES IN TEACHING READING SKILLS IN ENGLISH CLASSES

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Abstract:

This article provides useful information about how students can use short stories during their English lessons. In these lessons using short stories help to improve student's reading skills and instructors can teach literary, cultural and higher order thinking aspects with short stories.

Key words: short stories, teaching reading skills, critical thinking, developing vocabulary, comprehension.

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Introduction

Nowadays, teaching the English language is the most important process in our country. At schools, colleges and higher education it is developing day by day with different English teaching methods. Because learning a foreign language has a lot of chances for good study and career. English is one of the most widely spoken languages globally and serves as a lingua franca in various fields such as business, science, technology, education, and international communication. That's why there is a high interest in learning English among young people and adults. Learning English involves developing proficiency in four core language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Each of these skills is essential for effective communication in English. Especially, teaching reading skills in English classes is the best illustration for improving reading ability of learners in English. And instructors can use short stories in teaching reading skills. The article deals with using short stories in teaching reading skills, some advantageous sides of it and efficient ways to improve student's reading skills.

Advantages of using short stories.

Short stories create a meaningful context to teach different language focuses and to improve the student's interpretative strategies. It allows children to expand their vocabulary, teaches them to think critically, improves their motivation and allows students to practice their knowledge. Learners can provide the learner with a fulfilling reading experience without overwhelming them with an avalanche of new knowledge or vocabulary. During the teaching reading storytelling is a teaching method which helps young learners to solve given problems and tasks in a playful way and creates constructive and creative comprehension of the given matter. Presented with a storyline, children perceive the learning process more easily and effortlessly.

Incorporating short stories into teaching reading skills can be highly beneficial for students of all ages and proficiency levels. Short stories offer unique and engaging way to

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enhance various reading skills, comprehension abilities, and language development. Here are some advantages of using short stories in teaching reading skills:

1. **Developing Vocabulary:** Short stories expose students to variety of vocabulary words in context, helping them to increase their lexicon and improve word recognition skills. Through vocabulary used in different contexts, students can improve their vocabulary retention, word meanings, and usage in their own writing and speaking.
2. **Comprehension:** Short stories provide possible content that allows students to practice reading comprehension strategies effectively. And it enables students to make a deeper understanding of the text and developing overall comprehension skills.
3. **Paying attention:** While reading a short story, students are more likely to stay focused and interested throughout the reading process, making short stories is an effective tool for paying attention during reading activities.
4. **Critical thinking:** Short stories prompt students to think critically about the text, analyze plot developments, evaluate characters' motivations, and interpret themes. Engaging with short stories cultivates students' analytical skills, encourages them to questions, explore multiple perspectives and develop a deeper esteem for the intricacies of storytelling.
5. **Contextual Understanding:** Short stories present language in meaningful contexts that promote a better understanding of idiomatic expressions, phrasal verbs, and language usage nuances. By encountering language in authentic situations and dialogues, students can grasp the subtleties of language use and develop a more profound understanding of how words function in context.
6. **Creative Expression:** Short stories inspire creativity and imagination, encouraging students to think creatively, write their own narratives, and express their ideas through storytelling. Engaging with well-crafted short stories can spark students' creativity, ignite their passion for writing, and inspire them to explore their own narrative voice and style.

By leveraging the advantages of short stories in teaching reading skills, educators can create a dynamic and engaging learning experience that not only improve students' reading proficiency but also foster love for literature, critical thinking, and language exploration. Short stories serve as adaptable tools for enhancing reading skills, expanding vocabulary, stimulating imagination, and nurturing a deeper appreciation for the art of storytelling. (65%)

The elements of short stories.

Short stories, much like other forms of fiction, contain key elements. While there is some disagreement among experts about the exact number of elements in a short story, according to Gordon and Kuehner, there are six essential components:

- a) **Plot:** the plot involves the author's organizations of events in a narrative to create a specific impact. It unfolds as a series of actions typically arranged in a specific order, with causality and conflict forming its core components.
- b) **Setting:** The setting refers to the time and place in which the story unfolds. It can vary from broad descriptions to highly specific details, affecting the actions of characters, defining their personalities, and setting the story's mood.
- c) **Character:** Characters are the fictional individuals who play roles in the story. They may be based on the author's own experiences, acquaintances, or observations. Characters drive the plot and engage readers by their actions and development.
- d) **Point of view and tone:** The point of view is the perspective from which the story is narrated, which can be first-person or various types of third-person perspectives,

such as omniscient or limited omniscient. Tone, on the other hand, refers to the attitude or emotion conveyed by the narrator, shaping the story's overall perception.

These elements work together harmoniously to structure a coherent and compelling narrative within a short story, captivating the reader with its depth and impact.

Short story improves reading skills.

The significance of reading comprehension in second language acquisition is emphasized by various scholars in the literature. Krashen (1985) advocates for reading as a valuable source of comprehensible input that aids in second language learning. Jeni (2020) highlights the importance of short stories in enhancing students' reading comprehension. She underlines the role of teachers in fostering students' reading comprehension through effective strategies.

Pourkalhor and Kohan (2013) offer an alternative perspective on using short stories to enhance students' reading comprehension skills. They propose that reading short stories promotes the ability to infer meanings, encourages students to uncover hidden implications, and enhances skills in interpreting various forms of written material. By delving into short stories, students learn to read between the lines, improve their vocabulary, and enhance their overall comprehension abilities.

In the realm of second language reading, Pourkalhor and Kohan (2013) stress that students engage in a multitude of cognitive processes to comprehend texts effectively. Kucer (2001) and Rosenblatt (1978) mentioned that in asserting that comprehension occurs through a transaction between the reader and the text. Reading is seen as a receptive skill where readers extract and integrate information knowledge base.

Furthermore, Pourkalhor and Kohan (2013) delineate various levels of reading comprehension styles depending on the reader's objectives, such as informational comprehension, literal comprehension, critical or evaluative understanding, and appreciative comprehension. Their research affirms that reading comprehension can be significantly improved through the engagement with short stories.

Abdulrahman (2022) brings attention to another benefit of short stories, emphasizing their role in vocabulary instruction for ESL students. He asserts that a robust vocabulary is essential for effective communication, and exposure to the accurate use of words in short stories enhances lexical expansion, subsequently improving reading comprehension skills.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the main objective of teaching a skill is to assist students in communicating effectively in the target language. And also, short stories play a significant role in learning teaching skill as they introduce both literary and cultural facets that aid in reaching this objective. These stories offer a meaningful context for teaching various language topics and help in the development of interpretive strategies for learners. Teaching short stories is often an inspiring, enjoyable, and captivating activity for students. By incorporating literary works, educators help learners to become more imaginative and receptive to different cultures. Consequently, teaching short stories contributes to enhance students' imagination, creativity, and self-awareness. Short stories prompt students to enhance their English text comprehension abilities effectively through engaging and immersive storytelling. (90%)

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