

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day

3600 minutes in  
a school year

Student "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day

900 minutes in  
a school year

Student "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day

180 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



*90<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**282,000 words**



*50<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**8,000 words**



*10<sup>th</sup> percentile*

---

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

## LIST 6

## Twenty-Three Reasons to Read and Study Literature

1. We can vicariously travel to other places, even outer space.
2. We can learn from the profound thinkers of the world.
3. We can learn to express ourselves better in writing.
4. We can increase our vocabulary.
5. We can divert ourselves from our daily problems.
6. We can be entertained.
7. We can be lifted to a higher (more noble) emotional level.
8. We can be lifted to a higher (more noble) moral level.
9. We can fantasize and develop our imaginations.
10. We can go on exciting adventures.
11. We can laugh and be amused.
12. We can cry and learn to empathize with others.
13. We can vicariously experience all sorts of things we would *not want* to experience in reality.
14. We can vicariously experience all sorts of things we would *like* to do, but for lack of money, talent, physical or mental abilities, time, or other reasons will never be able to experience in reality.
15. We can learn more about ourselves.
16. We can learn more about society.
17. We can relax and reduce stress with a good story.
18. We can identify with characters and learn from them.
19. We can have fun and enjoyment.
20. We can learn to understand and become more tolerant of people, ethnic groups, and races that are different from ourselves.
21. We can vicariously go back in time and into the future.
22. We can learn to understand the motivations of others.
23. We can read almost any time and anywhere, regardless of the weather, and even when we're sick or injured.