



Classics: Why we should encourage children to read them

Fiza Pathan

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With the aid of this small book, I want to propagate the importance of classics to everyone, every student, parent and teacher. I know my compendium is small, but it's a beginning. Through this book I shall introduce to you the various classics that have influenced me, the different skills one can develop by reading good literature and how sometimes good fiction makes reality a lot more tolerable.

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Classics: Why we should encourage children to read them Details

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Sharon says

I especially enjoyed the anecdotal portions of this book. I think that the children that Ms. Pathan worked with are more motivated in general than many American children. The closest comparison, in my limited experience, would be homeschooled children.

Whimsical in parts, and enjoyable throughout.

Amber Swiger says

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Reading this short book has given me ideas to incorporate in my classroom . I will use suggestions in this book to help increase student learning .

Susan Stewart says

Too often “the classics” of literature are considered too old and too difficult for our children to tackle. As our kids’ teachers, we try to put on a happy face and tell them they’ll love it. If we’re honest with ourselves and our children, we have to admit we used Cliff Notes when during our school days and have never really read a “classic.”

We all know the benefits these masterpieces of literature have for all of us; they continue to be a positive force in literature, they bring history alive, and many reinforce positive moral characters. The problem is we remember our own experience reading the classics in school. My teachers used one of two methods: read only a selected portion of a book and move on or read a chapter to discuss the next day.

The first method of cherry-picking a couple of chapters out of a book doesn’t give a reader the full sense of the story. We were expected to pick some moral lesson out of the few pages we read. Never did we get the full story or the opportunity to know the characters.

The second method is plain boring. “Read chapter 2 tonight and be prepared to discuss the reasons for the family moving.” Even though the entire story is read, trying to extract answers to specific questions throughout destroys the flow of the story, thus the enjoyment.

Fiza Pathan’s book CLASSICS: How we can encourage children to read them offers suggestions not to teach the classics but to encourage children to read the classics. She is a teacher in India. Her methods have been used in and out of the classroom. Plus, she speaks from experience.

Some of us still may wonder why we should encourage the reading of classics when there are so many modern books specific for children are available. A few of the reasons Pathan cites in the Introduction are to develop creative skills, philosophy and morals, and logical thinking processes. Many of the popular books

for middlers and teens are lacking in all of these areas.

Instead of passing out a stack of books at the beginning of the term and assigning chapters to read, Pathan gives students and parents the opportunity to find pleasure in this literature. She suggests that “the first step must be the selection of a suitable book, one that matches the personality and tastes of the pupil.” What better way to inspire students?

Pathan encourages parents and educators, that would be most of us, to get to know the child before assigning a work to read. Picking specific books for children to read doesn't instill a love for reading. Giving assignments based on the book doesn't instill a love for great literature. Getting to know the interest of the student and offering a selection based on that interest does.

Doesn't this sound like homeschooling? We know our children better than the textbook companies and we know their interest. Following Pathan's advice to follow the interest of the reader fits well in most homeschool programs. Imagine, she suggests that parents read the classics and set an example for the students.

CLASSICS has other suggestions that allow each family to try what will work for them. Some of her ideas include watch the movie first, reading the classics aloud starting at a young age, or using abridged editions to spark an interest to read the full book.

The book does have what I consider meaningless activities such as word search puzzles. On the other hand, nearly every chapter has a list of books that fit well in the method selected.

I highly recommend CLASSICS; How we can encourage children to read them to all teachers, parents, grandparents, and everyone else who wants to instill a love for reading good literature

Doris-Maria says

True encouragement for students, teachers and parents

Sure, language skills and vocabulary of readers will be improved over time when reading a lot of classics. That's true for children and maybe adults alike.

Author Fiza Pathan, who usually writes poetry and short stories, constantly persuades her students and managed to get them to read classic books. She is enthusiastic when it comes to explain why students should read classic books, for example to discover the wonderful descriptions of situations, feelings and environment.

In one chapter the author lists some all-time favorite classics and what subjects they deal with. For example Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, where readers can learn about the French Revolution, English Law, the art of interrogation, life of peasants and the storming of the Bastille. It is amazing how much these classic books teach while also entertain. Thanks for reminding us!

Funny, that Fiza Pathan's first classic book she read as a child, was not Anne of Green Gables or something in this genre, but DRACULA. She describes how surprised her student were when they learned this. She explains: "Dracula really got me to love literature and language. Also this classic was very well written, it turned out to be a real page-turner."

And I agree: many classic books are page turners and for sure worth to read, which the author proofs in her

latest book. I would highly recommend it to students, teachers and parents.

Margaret Virany says

In this entertaining, informed, motivational book 23-year-old author Fiza Pathan of Mumbai, India makes a passionate plea to encourage children and adults to read one classic per week (or at least per month.) Based on her own teaching experience, it contains feedback from her students and their success stories. Easy-to-follow tips, lists and examples are presented precisely. Teachers will want to try out her original techniques for stimulating English classes. Parents and grandparents will feel empowered as Pathan outlines how to help children see the sky's the limit, get better grades, be articulate in writing and conversing, and grow up to be happy people. I really enjoyed this 90-page book and recommend it highly because I am sure you will too. www.amazon.com/author/margaretvirany

Ted Prokash says

This book gets five stars on principle. I grew up on books. They were my first and truest friends. And what a well-adjusted adult and all-round fun time I have turned out to be.

Eschewing formal higher education, I took my degree from the classics of literature. As you can clearly tell, my story has been one of unmitigated success. After all, I use the words "eschew" and "unmitigated" with confidence and impunity.

Hurrah to Fiza Pathan for championing a good cause! It's a sight more championing than most of us do.
