

Pleasures of Reading

Introduction: Once, during an interview with a foreign journalist. Lokmanya Tilak said that he was ready to reside even in hell if it could provide him with sufficient reading material and reading time.

Condition of reading: Reading can be possible only when there is a script, that is, something written. There was a time when the blind could not read, but now even they can read with the help of Braille.

Pleasure explained: Sense organs convey any feelings or stimuli to the mind. If such feelings and stimuli are agreeable to the mind, they are pleasures. Otherwise, they are painful.

Reading and pleasure: Reading is an excellent form of recreation as it involves the mind with various kinds of stories (long or short), poems, plays (drama). Comedies, jokes, news, thrills, suspense and various other thing.

Accumulated knowledge devoured: The accumulated knowledge of mankind is available in written and printed form. By reading it, one feels that hidden treasure of someone has been presented before one.

Pleasure of learning new things: learning, even knowing new things, places or persons always gives a great pleasure. By reading, one can know or learn many things within a very short time, e.g., by devoting only a few hours on "My Experiments with Truth". You can know the whole life of Mahatma Gandhi. Reading opens a whole new world to the reader.

Benefits of reading: Reading enlightens, enriches and educates... No person, therefore should be deprived of the benefits and pleasures of reading... Reading should be encouraged right from childhood. But today reading is not possible for every person. Why? poverty, lack of time reading now a costly affair, prevailing social and political conditions, growth of television culture.

Social responsibility: that everybody should be able to read is a social responsibility because of great benefits and effects of reading... facilities of basic education, libraries, etc. should be extended to all people. Mobile libraries, lending libraries and voluntary organization can go a long way.

Conclusion: Down the ages human beings have been enjoying the pleasures of reading. Man has been adding and enlarging the list of his pleasures but the pleasure of reading has always been the most constant. Of

course, the revolution in electronic media has tilted human mind towards TV and other things but even that one cannot enjoy to the full if one is denied the pleasures of reading.

Essay No. 2

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Food is necessary for our body. Similarly, we also need food for our mind. The best food for the mind is the reading of books. It has a joy of its own, which perhaps nothing else can give. The pleasure which one derives from reading is both recreate and ennobling. Reading gives us peculiar joy and we forget the cares and worries of life.

Reading is of different kinds. First there is light reading which means reading of news-papers and journals, etc. These are a storehouse of information about current events. Through them we come to know about what is happening throughout the world. Without this type of knowledge, we would remain like a frog in a well. Therefore, such reading cannot be ignored.

Then there are the books of travel and adventure. Man wants to escape from the dull realities of life. The spirit of adventure is in the blood of man. Books of travel and adventure infuse into us the same spirit of adventure and fearlessness as was displayed by the travelers themselves. The reading of novel a pleasant pastime and nothing is more entertaining than to spend some time in reading a novel in the afternoon or in a train.

Next we come to the books of serious reading. They include works of literature, history, philosophy, etc. Which may be and thoughtful minds. A student of literature comes in contact with the master minds of all ages and find a good deal of food for his thought. They give him an insight into the spiritual values of life. He can thus make his outlook is widened and the field of human sympathy broadened.

But we should be careful in the choice of books. If bad books come into the hand of the young, their minds are infected with their evil influence. Many promising youths have been ruined because of the taste for bad books. Good books, on the other hand, are purifying. They enlarge and enrich the mind and mould our character. Therefore, it is necessary that the youth should seek advice from those who are competent to give it.

The habit of reading is a sign of good culture. It is a great source of enjoyment and the best means to utilize leisure. Books are a treasure richer than any king's

treasurers. They are the gold mines of art, literature, science and information. They are our constant friends.