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Inspector G.E.N.R.E.-Helping Students Get Excited for New Reading Experiences

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Chapter One: What's the Point?

Why hello there! What have we here? It looks like a bunch of kids! Let me take a closer look. By golly it is a bunch of kids! Well, welcome to my office!

My name is Inspector Genre. You must be here to learn about reading. Reading is very important you know...

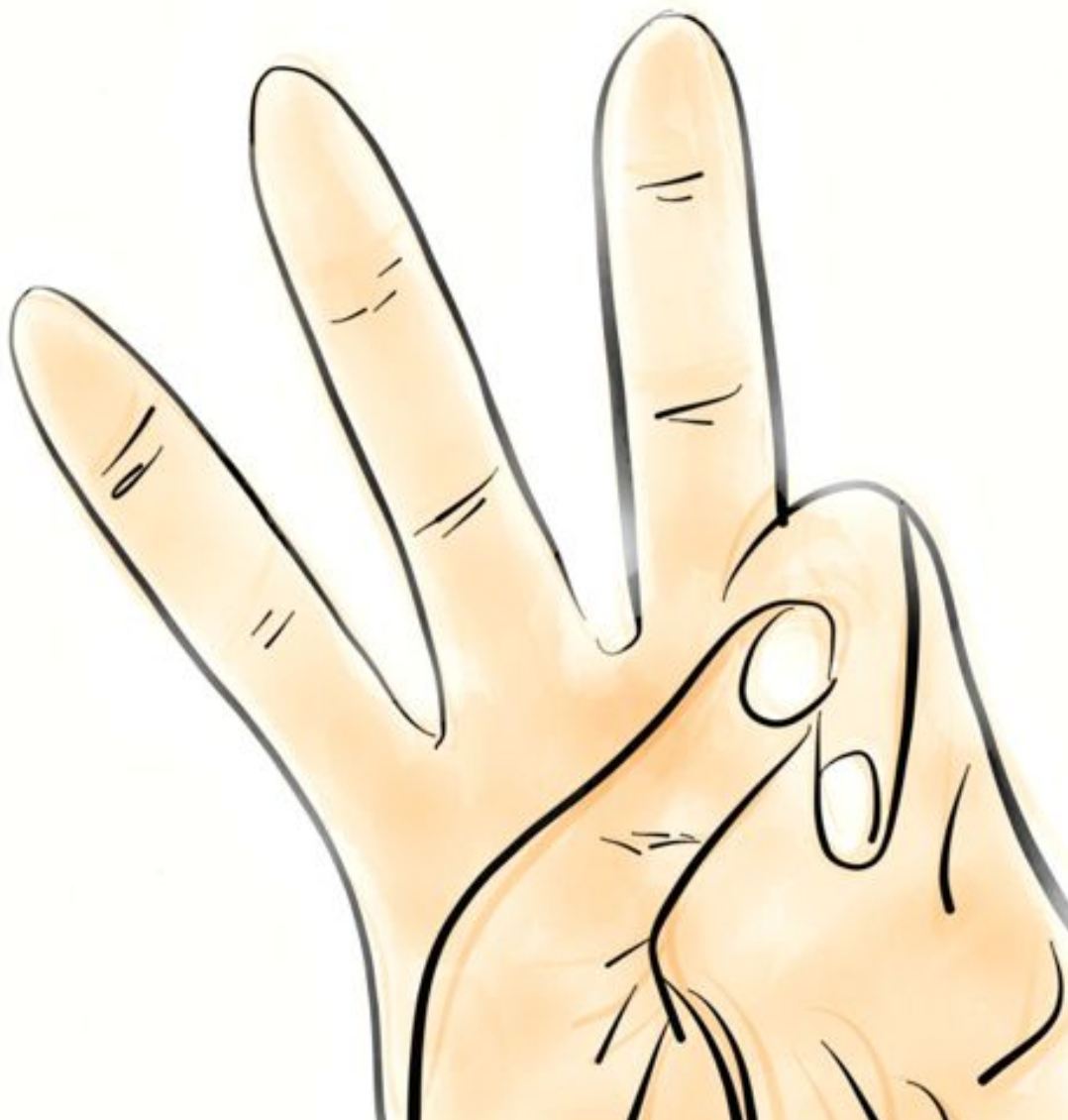


Wait, you don't know why reading is important?!
Oh my! This just won't do. Let me ask you then
why do you think people read?



There are three reasons why people read. When an author is writing, the author thinks about the purpose of their writing. They usually want to persuade, inform, or entertain the reader.

Oh wait! I am getting ahead of myself! You are probably wondering what those things are.



Persuading means that the author is trying to convince the reader of something. For example, if the author really likes apples, they might try to convince you that apples are the best fruit ever!

They could say, "Apples will make you super smart you should always eat them!" or "Apples are so yummy you should eat them everyday!"



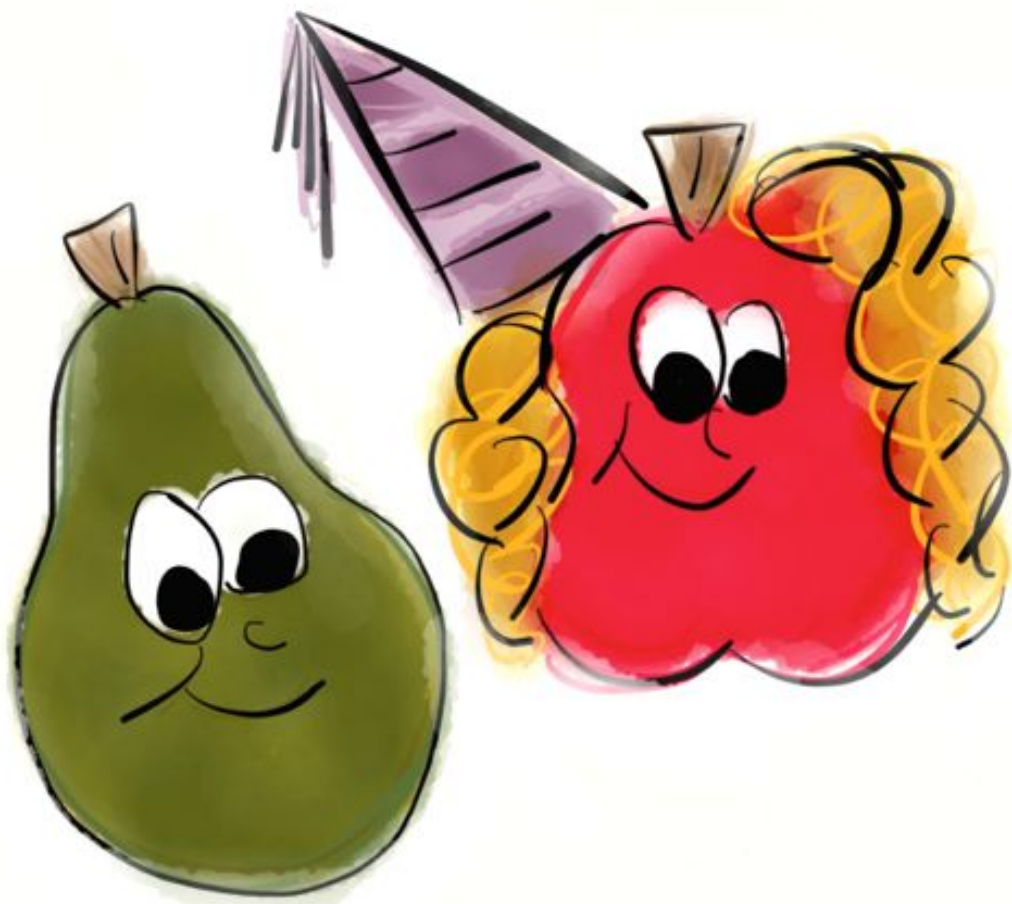
If an author is trying to give you information, they are trying to help you learn.

In cases like this, an author might say, "Apples are a fruit that grow on trees and are many colors."



The last thing that authors try to do is entertain us! This is by far my favorite because it is just so much fun! In stories where authors are trying to entertain us, they write stories that they think we will enjoy.

An author might entertain us by saying, "Once upon a time, there was an apple princess who fell in love with a pear prince."



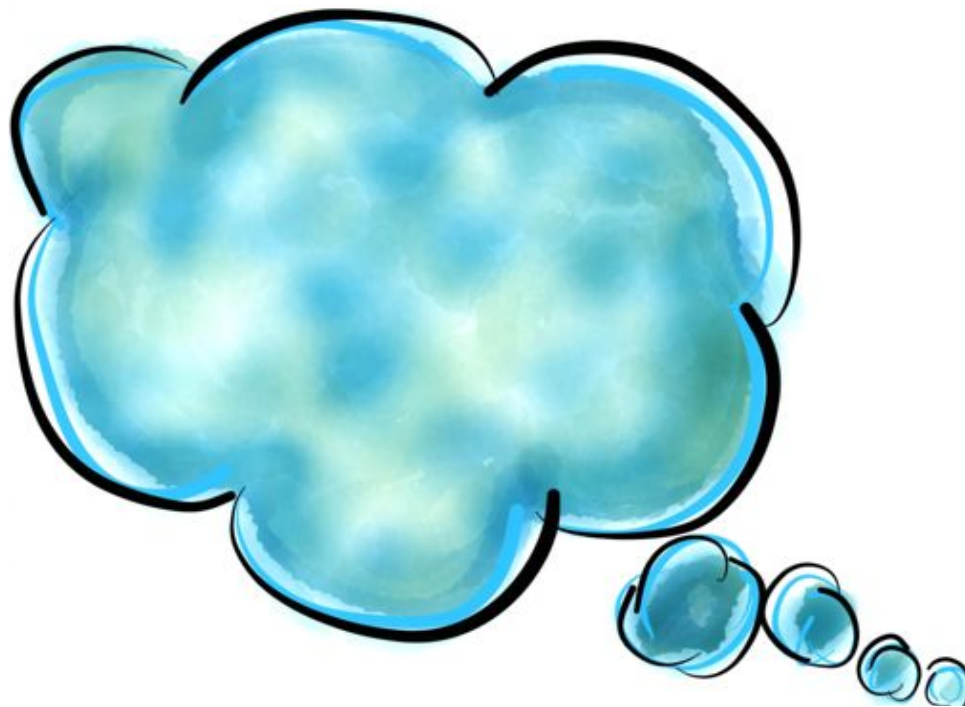
So let's think about those for a minute.

Can someone remind me what it means to persuade a reader?

What about informing a reader?

What does it mean when an author is trying to entertain us?

I think we are off to a great start learning about why people read!



Chapter Two: Who on Earth Reads?

Why hello again! I see you are back to learn more about reading! It truly is a great way to learn and have fun. Anyone can do it!



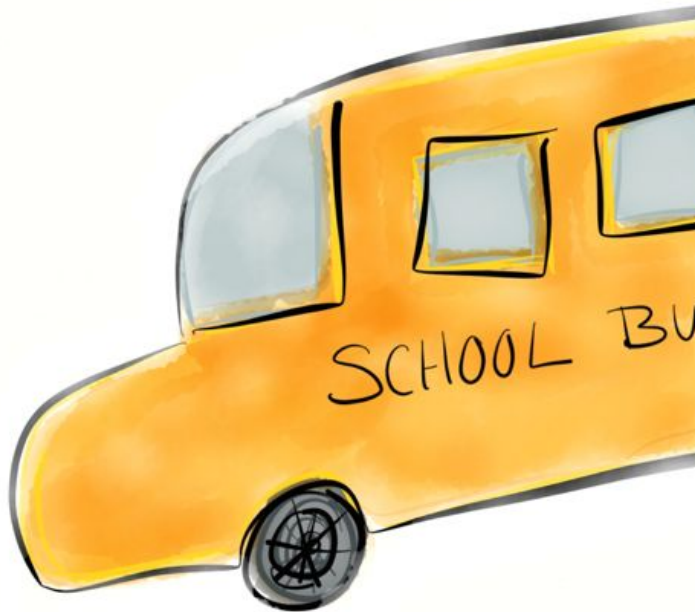
Did you know that anyone can read if they want to? I know it can be hard work but reading is important for a lot of people!

Think about different family members that read.
Your parents might use cookbooks they read while
they are making dinner.

I bet your grandparents read the newspaper
sometimes.

By golly, I suspect even YOU read sometimes!

I do seem to be missing an important question here
though. Hmm... Well, who else reads?



Doctors read, bus drivers read, and I know your librarian reads!

And you know what else? All of them read for different reasons!

Your doctor reads to know what medicine to give you. If they didn't know how to read, people might not get better. Being sick forever does not sound fun to me!

But, getting lost is not fun either! A bus driver needs to be able to read the street signs to get you home safely. When they drive, the street signs help them know where they are.

And what would a library be like if the librarian didn't read?! That would be MADNESS! Sheer madness, I tell you!

Sorry... I can get a bit excited at times. Reading is very important to me as you can tell.



You want to know one more thing? It's a secret though. Look behind the book. Try again! I think there is someone reading right now!

Is it the person holding this book?

Wow! Even they are reading! Boy, everyone really does read. Who do you know that likes to read?



Chapter Three: What Do You Like To Read?

Good day, friends! Boy do I have a story for you today! Did you know that there are different things that you can read?

Now, you might have already talked about this in school, but I thought we should think about it some more.

Have you ever read a story that was made up? We call these kinds of stories fiction stories.



These can be very fun because someone used their imagination to make a story.

Think about a unicorn! If we wrote a story about a unicorn it would be fiction because unicorns are make-believe.

Except for this one. He's my secret unicorn though so don't tell anyone!



Sometimes we read stories that are called nonfiction. This means that they are true stories!

For example, if you wrote about what you did this weekend, it would be nonfiction because it was a true story.

Besides picking between fiction and nonfiction books, we can also pick different genres to read. Does that word sound familiar to anyone?



Genres are used to help us group different kinds of books into categories.

We might read a mystery, fantasy, adventure, or so many other genres of books.

In a mystery, there might be a detective that is trying to figure something out.

Like, who took my pencil?

This is a real mystery, though, because I thought I put it here on my desk.

Hmm.. Oh well. It will show up eventually.

You might also like reading fantasy stories.

These are fiction stories that someone wrote about a make-believe place or people.

Sometimes, fantasy books talk about things like magic, dragons, or even unicorns.

Another example of a genre is adventure!

These ones are often quite fun and exciting!

The main character or person in the story may have a mission that they are trying to accomplish.

I like to think about adventure stories having pirate battles in them and hidden treasure that needs to be found.

These stories can be very exciting for you, the reader.



What kinds of stories do you like to read?

Are there other genres that you can think of?

Come back tomorrow to learn more about reading and why it is important!



Chapter Four: What Are Other Ways To Read?

Back again, I see!

Well, today I have some very exciting news for you.

Did you know that there are other ways to read beyond just sitting down and holding a book in your hands?

There are lots of ways to read and this can make it more exciting for you!

One of my favorite ways to read is with a partner.

When I read with a partner, I find it helpful because if I am not sure about a word, then my partner can help me.



Aside from your partner helping you with reading, it can be fun to share the story with them.

Can you think of a story you would like to share with someone?

Sometimes, when I find a book that I love, I want to share that with my friends so we can enjoy the book together.

Another way that you can read differently is to read while listening to an audiobook.

This means that you put headphones on and read along while a recording reads also.



Sometimes, I think this is helpful for me so I can stay more focused on what I am reading.

If I am listening and reading at the same time, I find I do not get distracted when I am reading as much.

This can also be fun to read this way because it reminds me of my parents or other family members reading to me.

If you can't find an audiobook version of a book, you can try asking a family member to read it to you while you read along, kind of like when we talked about partner reading.

One of the last ways you can read and enjoy books differently is to read a book and then watch the movie version of it.

Often, the book and movie are not exactly the same so it can be fun to compare the two.

You could even make a list of things that were the same and things that were different.

Which new way of reading do you think you want to try?



Chapter Five: How do We Become Lifelong Readers?

And then they jumped up on top of the boat and...
Oh! I see you are here already. I will just finish my book later then.

Hmm, I can't seem to remember what we have been talking about. Can anyone remind me?

Ah that's right! We have been talking about reading! So we have talked about why we read, who reads, what we can read, and other ways we can read. That's a lot to learn about!



Hmm, but now what?

What happens when you aren't in school anymore?

Will you keep reading?

The last thing for us to talk about is how we can become lifelong readers. Look around you each day and you will see people reading.



Reading, as we have learned, can make you smarter and bring you enjoyment.

If we keep reading throughout life, we will start to see more and more just how important reading is.

Becoming a lifelong reader doesn't have to be hard, though.

It can be as easy as reading the newspaper in the morning or reading a book before bed.



My father read to me every night growing up!

For me, that showed just how much reading can bring to you.

We read lots of books together and he helped me to learn that reading is something you share.

Becoming a lifelong reader may sound hard, but it doesn't need to be.



Just reading one thing everyday helps you reach this goal!

Look around. How many books or other things to read do you see?

There are lots of things to read!
You just need to pick something up and start.

Many years ago, I made myself a list to become a lifelong reader.

Here is what I put on it.

1. Read something everyday.
2. Find books that make me happy and excited to read.
1. Share what I read with my family and friends.

Just those three things are all I needed to become a lifelong reader.

How will you become one?

Thank you so much for spending time with me and letting me tell you about reading.

You have helped me continue to be a lifelong reader!

Now go out there and investigate how you can be a lifelong reader too!

