

THE BENEFITS OF READING FICTION



LEAD IN: In pairs/groups, discuss the benefits of reading fiction.

1. You are going to watch a video that explains the benefits of reading fiction. Write down as many advantages as you can hear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RCFLobfgcw>

2. Watch the video two more times and fill in the gaps with the word you hear (1 word per gap)

Literature....

- 1) ...is ultimately the greatest time _____.
- 2) ...puts you through more situations than you can ever _____.
- 3) ...introduces you to fascinating people like a Roman _____.
- 4) ...turns us into _____ of the world at almost no cost.
- 5) ...shows us examples of kind generous _____ people
- 6) Books find words to describe the _____ experiences of our inner life
- 7) For example, _____ when a friend tell us about his new business
- 8) Great books don't _____ people as harshly as the media do
- 9) We tend to treat literature as a _____
- 10) Literature is really _____
- 11) Literature helps us live with _____

3. GROUP DISCUSSION: "The Benefits of reading fiction"

a) Consider the QUOTATIONS below. Which one do you most agree with?

- "The pleasure of all reading is doubled when one lives with another who shares the same books" (Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923) short story writer and poet)
- "A book, as a journey, begins with anxiety and finishes with melancholy" (José de Vasconcelos (1882-1959) philosopher)
- "The reading of a fine book is an uninterrupted dialogue in which the book speaks and our soul replies" (André Maurois (1885-1967) novelist)
- "A book should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us" (Franz Kafka (1883-1924) novelist)
- "Where they burn books, they will end in burning human beings" (H. Heine (1797-1856) German poet)

b) If reading fiction is so beneficial, why do people nowadays do not read as often as in the past?

c) Can you think of ways of encouraging people to read fiction more often?

KEY

2.

Literature....

- 1) ...is ultimately the greatest time saver.
- 2) ...outs you thorough more situations than you can ever witness
- 3) ...introduces you to fascinating people like a Roman general.
- 4) ...turns us into citizens of the world at almost no cost.
- 5) ...shows us examples of kindly generous sympathetic people
- 6) Books find words to describe the fragile/weird/special experiences of our inner life
- 7) For example, envy when a friend tell us about his new business
- 8) Great books don't judge people as harshly as the media do
- 9) We tend to treat literature as a distraction/entertainment
- 10) Literature is really therapy
- 11) Literature helps us live with wisdom.