

Parislektion: Why do we read? – A discussion about literature

Okay students let us begin this lesson. Very welcome to this lesson in literature.

My name is Joakim Jansson and I'm a teacher from Sweden. I teach Swedish, philosophy and religious studies in a secondary school in Stockholm.

If I say "I read –therefore I exist" what do you say then?

For me reading make me feel a live and to understand myself and my the world around me.

A pretty famous modern Swedish author and song writer, Bob Hanson, write about his first novel experience. He wrote:

"This book gave me everything. The book told me everything, that life is so much more than the weekday I fell into the hands to be born in. It whispered in my ear: you Bob, you can let the thirst you carry on pass, it exists more rivers to drink out of than you can imagine..."

Why do we read?

- Another Swedish author, one of my favourites by the way, Mare Kandre who tragedy passed away 2005, just 40 years old, wrote that literature emphasise the reality – the literature explains the reality and gives the life a meaning.**
- The last year Nobel prize-winner in literature, Herta Müller, assert that the reading makes the world easier to understand.**
- The reader can find comfort and identification through the literature, she or he is reading.**
- You can both write and read something back to life – the writing and the reading helps you to remember.**

Now I thought that you should discuss in groups why you are reading and what you prefer to read.

Do you think that you can be better human beings if we read novels poems etcetera? Can we be more empatic, ethical, interpreting?

Now I'm giving each group a form to fill in and than I would like that each group present their answers in front of the other groups. Okay?

Discuss these questions in the group and be ready to report on the results, especially comparing and commenting on similarities and differences in your reading. Take notes in the spaces provided.

- 1. What do you read privately? What is – in your opinion – the best book you ever read?**
- 2. What do you read (have to read) in school?**
- 3. What would you like to read, what book do you plan to read next?**
- 4. What do your friends read, your parents, and – if you should know – your teachers?**

Okay than. Now the is out. Let's hear what I have discussed in your groups.

Okay than. I would like to thank you for your attention during this lesson. We are seeing again soon.

Masterpiece quiz

Match the extract with an author and if you can the masterpiece too

1. “Stones in the road? I save every single one, one day I will build a castle.”
 2. “Freedom Sancho, is one of the most precious gifts that the heavens [God] gave men. It cannot be equated with the treasures that the earth locks up or that the sea conceals; for freedom, just like honor, can and should venture [guide] life.”
 3. “I sit here in my chains and the days go by and nothing ever happens. It is an empty joyless life, but I accept it without complaint. [...] If I know anything of my lord, he cannot spare his X for long.”
 4. “ So I descended from the first enclosure down to the second circle, that which girdles less space but grief more great, that goads to weeping.”
 5. “Excellently observed, answered X, but let us take care of our garden.”
 6. “How happy I am that I am gone! My dear friend, what a thing is the heart of man! To leave you, from whom I have been inseparable, whom I love so dearly, and yet to feel happy! I know you will forgive me. Have not other attachments been specially appointed by fate to torment a head like mine.”
 7. “Let not one devil cross the bridge.”
- a. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
 - b. Voltaire (Francois-Marie Arouet)
 - c. Johan Ludvig Runeberg
 - d. Dante Alighieri
 - e. Pär Lagerkvist
 - f. Fernando Pessoa
 - g. Miguel de Cervantes

