

USING MAGAZINES FOR DEVELOPING READING SKILLS

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10103426>

Abstract. *Using magazine as a reading material in the classroom can bring many benefits to students' learning process. It can make the learning experience more interesting and engaging, provide a variety of reading materials, expose students to real-life language use, improve critical thinking skills, and promote cultural awareness. Therefore, teachers should consider incorporating magazine into their teaching materials to enhance the students' reading skills and make the learning process more effective and enjoyable.*

Keywords: *teaching reading, magazine, information, digital media, vocabulary.*

Indeed, reading is a fundamental part of daily life for individuals in literate communities. It is widely recognized as an important activity that allows people to expand their knowledge, explore different perspectives, and engage with the world around them. Reading is often regarded as a gateway to new ideas, cultures, and experiences.

Comprehension is indeed a crucial aspect of reading. The ultimate goal of reading is to understand and make meaning from the text. Simply reading words without comprehending their meaning renders the activity ineffective and unproductive. When we read, we aim to grasp the information presented, interpret it, and connect it to our existing knowledge and experiences.

Comprehension involves various cognitive processes, such as decoding words, understanding sentence structures, inferring meaning from context, and making connections between different parts of the text. It requires active engagement with the material and the ability to extract meaning from the written words.

Reading comprehension is vital for several reasons. It enables us to acquire knowledge, learn new concepts, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance our ability to communicate effectively. Comprehension allows us to engage with different genres of literature, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and academic texts, and derive meaning from them.

According to Bloomfield, (1999:143) states there is a level of cognitive domain namely comprehension that is a type of understanding such that the individual knows what is being communicated. Since English stated in the national curriculum, English subject becomes a compulsory course that should be learned. It is taught from the elementary school until the university level. Savignon, (1991:261) stated that are four basic skills that we should study such as reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Reading and listening are receptive skills thus speaking and writing are productive skills. By having more knowledge of basic skill in English language of course we have much better chance of understanding and getting what we want and need from those around us.

Magazines are a form of printed media that is distinct from newspapers, books, pamphlets, direct mail, and billboards. Magazines are typically published periodically, such as monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly, and they often focus on specific topics or interests.

Magazines can be found in many countries worldwide, and they come in various types and sizes. Some magazines cater to broad audiences and cover a wide range of topics, while others target niche markets and focus on specific subjects like fashion, sports, travel, cooking,

technology, or entertainment. The diversity of magazine genres allows readers to find publications that align with their interests and preferences.

Magazines vary in size as well. They can range from small pocket-sized publications to larger formats. The size often depends on the purpose and target audience of the magazine. For example, lifestyle and fashion magazines may be larger to showcase high-quality visuals and photography, while niche or specialized publications may opt for smaller sizes.

Magazines play a significant role in the media landscape. They provide a platform for journalists, writers, photographers, and artists to share their work and expertise. Magazines also serve as a source of information, entertainment, and inspiration for readers. They often contain articles, features, interviews, reviews, and visual content that engage and inform their audiences.

In recent years, the rise of digital media has had an impact on the magazine industry. Many magazines now have online versions or digital editions that can be accessed through websites, apps, or e-readers. This allows for wider distribution and reach, as readers can access magazines from anywhere with an internet connection.

Magazines are an integral part of the media landscape, providing readers with a diverse range of content and serving as a platform for information, entertainment, and engagement. Mott (1996) says, “magazine may be defined as bound pamphlets, published periodically. They are issued in various sizes with a variety of formats and contain miscellaneous subject matter which frequently has entertainment as its primary objectives”. According to Brown, a magazine is a living breathing organism and must meet its readers’ needs in more fundamental, more emotional, and more empathetic ways (Brown H 2007). Magazines are cheap and magazine will have to continue to offer an intelligent perspective on the world. There are some definitions of reading based on the experts’ opinions. Reading is probably the most important skill for second language (L2) learners in academic contexts (Celce and Murcia, 2001). Reading is gradually being recognize as a valuable source of language input, particularly for students in learning environments (as in some EFL context) in which fluent speakers of English are generally not available to provide other kinds of language input.

In educational settings, reading comprehension is often emphasized and assessed to evaluate students' understanding and learning. Effective reading instruction focuses not only on decoding skills but also on strategies to enhance comprehension, such as predicting, summarizing, questioning, and making connections.

In summary, reading and comprehension are intrinsically linked. Reading without understanding what has been read limits the benefits that can be derived from the activity. To fully reap the rewards of reading, it is essential to develop strong comprehension skills that enable us to extract meaning, reflect, and engage with the material we encounter.

The teacher has to give information that not all the information in magazine is true. Because magazine is often used for propaganda. The teacher also can ask the students to find the information that is not true or not appropriate with the fact. The teacher should give example of information that is not appropriate with the fact. The teacher also can ask the students to make a comparison between magazine and other reading material, such as text book, newspaper, and internet. The teacher can ask the students to find the difference in structure, content, and purpose of each reading material. By doing this, the students can understand the different characteristics of each reading material and how to use them effectively in their learning process. Another way to use magazine as reading material in the classroom is by integrating it with other subjects. For

example, if the students are learning about history, the teacher can provide them with magazines that discuss historical events or figures. This will help the students to see the connection between history and current events, and also make the subject more interesting and relevant to them. Similarly, if the students are learning about science, the teacher can provide them with magazines that focus on scientific discoveries or innovations. This will not only enhance their understanding of the subject, but also encourage them to explore more about science outside of the classroom (B. Walker, 1988).

In addition, magazine can also be used for language learning. The teacher can give the students a task to read a specific article from a magazine and then summarize it in their own words. This will not only improve their reading skills, but also their writing and critical thinking skills. The teacher can also ask the students to identify new vocabulary words from the article and use them in sentences or discussions. This will expand their vocabulary and help them to improve their language proficiency.

According to Alderson besides to recreation, magazine is also focus on special knowledge, like natural science, social science and sport etc., those are learned in the school. Besides that, magazine provides much actual information that has special specification and has responsibility to convey information. If it chooses carefully, magazine can be integral part from studying, especially study of reading (Alderson 2000).

Furthermore, the teacher can also use magazine as a tool for promoting creativity and imagination. The teacher can ask the students to create their own magazine cover or design a new layout for a magazine. This will allow the students to express their creativity and think outside of the box. The teacher can also ask the students to write their own articles or stories and compile them into a class magazine. This will not only improve their writing skills, but also encourage them to collaborate and work together as a team.

In conclusion, magazine can be a valuable reading material in the classroom. Through the use of magazine, the teacher can enhance the students' reading skills, promote critical thinking and creativity, and integrate different subjects in the learning process. It is important for the teacher to guide and monitor the students in using magazine effectively and critically, so that they can gain benefits from this alternative reading material.

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