Why Read?

In *How to Read and Why* (Touchstone, 2001), Harold Bloom writes, “It matters, if individuals are to retain any capacity to form their own judgments and opinions, that they continue to read for themselves. How they read, well or badly, and what they read cannot depend wholly upon themselves, but why they read must be for and in their own interest [. . .]. One of the uses of reading is to prepare ourselves for change, and the final change, alas is universal [. . .]” (21).

Students come into classes with different interests, needs, and abilities and bring a variety of experiences and attitudes toward reading. It seems important to me that more teachers have recognized the importance of using a thematic approach, thus allowing students to choose from a variety of books in studying a particular theme. As another year rolls around, I offer some suggestions of some themes and titles worthy of exploring. Please remember that some students and teachers may not enjoy a particular author’s style or even the book itself. There is a subjectivity in listing so few books per theme. This is just to provoke thought about the possibilities available. But the more, the merrier.

**Sports**

**War**

**Cultural Diversity**


**On the Lighter Side**

**Beyond Here and There: A Touch of Fantasy**

**Once Upon a Time: Historical Fiction**

**School Days**

**Thrillers and Chillers**

**Short Stories**

**Teens: Trials and Tribulations**

**Nonfiction**

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Reading has a significant number of benefits, and here are 10 benefits of reading to get you to start reading. VIDEO SUMMARY.

1. Mental Stimulation. Reading books is also vital for learning new languages, as non-native speakers gain exposure to words used in context, which will ameliorate their own speaking and writing fluency.

5. Memory Improvement. Why do we read? To read is to build your own imagination and strengthen resistance to prevailing commercial forces.

Isabelle Cartwright. Why do we read? The simple answer is for pleasure. But what exactly is the nature of that pleasure? Reading removes us from the structure of our lives, from the routine, the sequential habits of our day-to-day living. We enter instead another time zone. The plot, characters and setting occupy us, and while we read we inhabit the others’ reality.