

BENEFITS OF USING STORYTELLING IN TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS**Muhammadiyah H.S.****Avazbekova F.**

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Abstract: This article describes benefits of using Storytelling in teaching English to young learners.

Key words: Storytelling, young learners, teaching English, foreign language, benefits, meaningful contexts, vocabulary acquisition, imagination, listening skills, reading fluency, language production, speaking activities, role play, summaries, creative writing, communicative competence, interpreting meaning, contextual clues, cultural awareness, comprehension, motivation, engagement, interest, listening and reading fluency, productive language use, communicative abilities, cross-cultural understanding.

A great method for teaching young students English is storytelling. Children are taken to fantastical settings through stories, which captivate their attention and aid in the memorable and enjoyable teaching of critical language skills. Storytelling in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms has many advantages.

Firstly, narratives offer significant settings that help learners retain newly acquired words. Instead of learning words on their own, new vocabulary is woven into a creative story with endearing characters. The dialogue, scenes, emotions, and actions that surround the new words aid in solidifying their meaning. Research indicates that learning vocabulary within a story context improves retention more than learning it from word lists. Additionally, the terminology frequently appears again and again throughout the narrative, offering repetition that promotes memory.

Secondly, narratives pique people's curiosity about the English language. It can be difficult for young pupils learning a foreign language to stay motivated and engaged.

Children's interest and feeling of wonder are piqued by stories. With the use of lively delivery, varied vocal tones, and well-timed pauses, the teacher captivates the class with stories that make them want to know what will happen next. Children that exhibit this level of curiosity and involvement are more open to learning new linguistic elements.

Third, stories help people learn how to listen. Students must actively listen for extended periods of time when they are listening to a teacher narrate a narrative in vivid detail. To completely understand the narrative, they have to pay attention to how the plot and sequence of events are developing. Through this approach, they are trained to listen in longer, more complex sentences as opposed to brief utterances. Gaining proficiency in listening can also help them understand English when it is spoken at a typical conversational tempo.

Fourth, stories provide a springboard for language production activities. After reading or listening to a story, teachers can utilize it as basis for many follow-up speaking and writing

activities. For example, they may ask students to verbally recap events, describe characters, role play key scenes, invent alternate endings, compose short written summaries, or create their own stories. This gives them an opportunity to apply recently encountered vocabulary and language structures in their own output. Stories thus become a versatile instructional platform for well-rounded language practice.

Fifth, stories foster communicative competence. Understanding a narrative requires children to infer meaning from contextual cues. By engaging with stories, young learners begin intuitively developing abilities such as listening for gist, guessing unknown words from context, comprehending key ideas, predicting upcoming events, and grasping implied meanings. These intertwined skills form the essence of communicative competence - the ability to make sense of language in authentic contexts.

Finally, stories promote cross-cultural awareness. Stories echo the imaginative worlds, customs, histories and beliefs within cultures. Exposure to storytelling traditions from around the globe thus allows children to better understand how other communities live and think. This fosters more culturally aware, worldly, and tolerant mindsets.

Incorporating storytelling into English language teaching brings profound benefits for the development of young learners' proficiency. Stories ignite passion for learning English, accelerate vocabulary acquisition, improve listening and reading fluency, spur productive language use, hone comprehending abilities, and expand cultural awareness. Teacher should leverage children's innate love of imaginative tales to make language learning creative, impactful and fun. With the magic of stories, the English journey of young minds will be both pleasurable and fruitful.

In conclusion, implementing storytelling into English language instruction for young learners is enormously beneficial and should be a vital part of any EFL curriculum. Stories have remarkable power to foster language acquisition, spur communicative development, spark creativity, and promote cultural awareness in blossoming young minds.

On a basic level, the imaginative contexts and repetitive language patterns in stories aid vocabulary uptake. Rather than rote memorization of word lists, new terminology is absorbed more naturally through memorable narratives and descriptions. The discourse also trains listening skills as children actively follow the evolving tale. These strengthened interpreting and retention abilities form crucial foundations.

Additionally, well-chosen stories stimulate student engagement and interest-key ingredients for effective language uptake. The enchanting worlds, curious characters and suspenseful plots spark children's sense of wonder. This curiosity hooks them into learning by forging an emotional connection and desire to keep listening or reading to uncover more. Their imagination is lit up as they visualize scenes or empathize with protagonists. This engagement results in higher motivation, attention and time spent immersed in English.

Enlivened by stories, children also display greater creative expression. Inspired by bold characters who overcame challenges, they grow more confident to practice and play with new vocabulary and grammatical structures. Safe story settings provide low-stakes environments to try out recently learned language. Creativity surges in retelling tales, role plays and inventing alternate endings. Such productive expression accelerates language activation as students actively reuse key phrases and terminology.

Stories furthermore spur communicative competence—the ability to interpret meaning from real-world language contexts. Through clues embedded in discourse, young people learn to infer the sense of unfamiliar terms, grasp implied ideas, and make predictions. By encountering varied literary and cultural narratives, they also develop awareness of differences in how communities live, think and speak. Such exposure nurtures more tolerant global perspectives.

To sum up, storytelling undeniably has multifaceted benefits ranging from igniting intrinsic motivation to boosting interpretation skills to providing springboards for creative linguistic expression. Stories help convert language instruction from dry grammar practice into enjoyable journeys of the imagination. Taking children by the hand to explore tales from around the globe fosters not just English growth, but expanded worldviews. By incorporating rich and regular story sessions, teachers can spark joyful and impactful language learning. With enchanting stories, classrooms are transformed into incubators for cultivating linguistically adept, creative, culturally aware global citizens. The time is ripe for schools everywhere to recognize the tremendous potential of storytelling for English teaching success.

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