

# Editorial

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Lack of reading leads to the drying up of the human imagination. Certainly, at the end of a day, some people, tired from the hard day, just turn on the TV, but in this way, everything is given ready-made, namely: the way the characters look, the scenario, the places, without giving you the opportunity to imagine these things yourself, without stimulating the imagination, which is so necessary to our nature. The ability to express oneself and to understand is also affected by the lack of reading, contributing to underdeveloped vocabulary. How one expresses oneself is influenced by the extent of one's reading habits. Poor, faulty expression can lead to problems in the social and professional relationships we form with those around us, so that our knowledge is somewhat limited and our general culture is poor. Neglecting to read can also affect one's judgment to some extent, because an uninformed person is easily taken for a ride.

We cannot develop sufficiently, both as individuals and as a people, as long as we lack the habit of reading, the curiosity to find out what is going on around us. Reading has the function of educating, enhancing knowledge and nurturing our intellectual growth. Envision a future without education, and it becomes evident that education is not just reading. Books can contribute to our improvement as individuals, as a country. They bring people together through information and imagination, they inspire many ideas at the same time. Reading leads to greater cognitive activity in which the brain learns new vocabulary, thus developing social perception and emotional intelligence.

Not a few people believe that reading is absolutely necessary for personal development and reading books is a person's most valuable asset. Interestingly, by reading they consider that they are taking care of their mental health. Without books, without education, there can be no talk of a secure, bright future. Examining the reasons behind reading reveals a clear distinction: casual readers may read out of boredom or amusement, while passionate readers will read for pleasure, out of the need to evolve, to know and understand. There are also people who do not have the opportunity to be occasional readers, and in such a situation, how could they have the chance to evolve and become passionate readers? These, unfortunately, are the illiterates, the people who cannot read. Functional illiterates are those who can read but do not understand what they have read and there are also those who can read, understand what they have read, but financial problems or lack of bookshops, libraries, do not allow them to do so. All three situations are unfortunate.

Books do not automatically confer wisdom, but it is hard to be wise without reading them. Lack of reading is a kind of intellectual death. Books go through a rigorous process to get published, and the truly enlightening ones present complex ideas and arguments put together by an author who has done his homework well. Such books teach you how to think. Reading is the best way to cultivate an independent mind, able to see beyond the prejudices and sophisms that circulate in the public space, and such clarity of thought is increasingly rare because most people are too busy to read. A book is not just printed writing, an object, or a work, it is more than a binding of many sheets and has the ability to send you into the mind of someone else, even if that author has been dead for hundreds or thousands of years.

Through the book, a link is created between people from different eras, it is a way of communicating or teaching others, passing on a body of knowledge and developing the reader's intellectual capacities. Books also have the power to form communities, which can bring together people from different walks of life with the same passion for reading. Reading helps you learn about human nature, history, strategies that have worked and strategies that have not, giving you some reference points. For some, reading is even a way of life. Even if reading does not provide all the answers, it illuminates the path, which in some situations is darker. The benefits are many: purchase books, borrow books, give books, read books.