

## READING ACTIVITY

### READING A FAVOURITE AUTHOR\* (To become an expert reader\*)

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**Objective** : Enabling a reader to read all the works of his/her favourite author to emerge as an expert on the author and his/her writings

**Participation** : Individual

**Material** : All the works (at least the major works) of one's favourite writer (J.K. Rowling)

**Preparation** : Reading the works of a writer and the available critical materials on them.

#### **Procedure :**

After identifying an author of your liking start reading the works, if possible, the order in which they were written. If the writer has written in different genres the reader has to read all of them to have a firm grounding on him/her. J.K. Rowling, for instance, although was initially known for the Harry Potter series, has works in the genres of fantasy, crime fiction (Cormoran Strike), drama (The Casual Vacancy), tragicomedy, screenplay (Potter films) and so on. Familiarity with all the writings alone can offer deeper understanding and greater insights into a writer.

Read the critical materials on the works from all possible sources such the exclusive books, chapters in books, journal and magazine articles, websites (blogs, YouTube, PPTs), and interviews of the writer and this will facilitate a reader to shape his/her own authoritative perspectives. Being familiar with the existing critical materials would force a reader to generate views which would be uniquely his/her own. Along with it, the honours and awards won by the writer could add spice to any discussion.

Read also the biographical details including the author's childhood to the creative process and to varied interests, not confining to merely writings, to have a comprehensive knowledge. J.K. Rowling, to illustrate, is deeply interested in politics, charity and several other social issues and this will enable a reader to have a rich repertoire of information about her. Some of the tidbits such as her real name, Joanne "Jo" Rowling, and pen names J.K. Rowling and Robert Galbraith and the reasons for adopting different names can be matter of interests to all. An expert reader possesses a thorough knowledge of the writer and his/her words are final in any controversy.

Discussing a writer even with those who are not familiar would get them interested and, which may lead them to reading their writings. Experts always pass on to others the passion they have for a writer/subject.

#### **Learning outcomes:**

- 1) Learners realize that reading one or two works of a writer at random does not help them much to formulate thoughtful perspectives about them.
- 2) Learners recognize that possessing an authoritative knowledge about an author and the works would make them valuable and interesting conversationalists.

#### **Further activity:**

Reading all/major works of a writer(s) and the materials available on the writer and his/her writings.

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**\*Favourite author:** It varies from reader to reader and even with the same reader it varies from time to time depending on his/her interest. J.K. Rowling is one of the best selling living writers and has fans all over the world across the age groups.

**\*An Expert** is someone who is very knowledgeable about an area and in this case, about Rowling and her works.