

READING ACTIVITY

Parallel Reading (Advanced Level)

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- Objective** : To create parallel texts to what one reads as to develop an ability to read creatively
- Participation** : Individual
- Material** : Any biographical or autobiographical text (A.P.J. Abdul Kalam’s *My Journey, Wings of Fire, etc.*)
- Preparation** : Attempting consciously to draw parallels to one’s own experiences while reading a text
- Procedure** : While reading, especially biographical and autobiographical texts, apart from comprehending them, one should aim at generating parallel texts based on one’s life.

<p>An example: Kalam in his book, <i>My Journey</i>, writes the following: We lived in our ancestral home, a fairly large house made of limestone and brick, built some time in the nineteenth century. It was never luxurious, but was filled with love. My father had a boat-building business. Additionally, we also owned a small coconut grove some four miles away from our house. That was where my father would be headed for the early morning hours (p. 3).</p>	<p>When I went through this part of the book these are the thoughts that went through my mind: (a reader)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My thoughts automatically went to my father and the old house built by him. • ‘Filled with love’ brought the visuals of joyful families bound by love. • My mind also took me to the boat-building yards I have visited. • Then I experienced the pleasantness of the coconut grove. • ‘Early morning hours’ brought to my mind a host of people walking in the early morning on the beach and there was also a flash of the tsunami that swallowed the morning walkerson the Marina Beach.
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During my childhood, my father was mostly away in the neighbouring state running his construction business. He would normally come home at night and my siblings and I would have the pleasant surprise of seeing him when we woke up in the morning. We would be overwhelmed with gifts of playthings, clothes and delicacies. However, he used to spend very little time with us as we would be busy with our school work and hobbies while he would be busy with his visitors and his affairs. However, I have a very memorable experience of my father teaching us how to swim in one of the ponds in the village. We would rest on his palm to float in the water splashing our hands and legs and move in circles.

- After reading/even while reading one should record the created texts as they would become elusive after a while. These captured texts can be fine-tuned, if required any number of times, till they become highly readable.
- The created texts are to be reviewed by others and, in the light of the feedback, they have to be refined by adding, deleting, altering and/or restructuring to make them interesting.

Learning outcomes:

1. Learners understand that mere mechanical reading of a text wouldn’t make them enriched readers since it has to be personalized.
2. Learners realize that they could also create texts similar to the ones they read, which would subsequently lead them to become creative writers.

Further activity:

Any text that has certain similarity to one’s personal life should be utilized to read creatively.