



EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO READING DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

01 April 2021

I took time to engage with learners who often attend extra tuition sessions at my friend's place about the meaning of school holidays. Most of them believe that they should completely switch off from learning activities and focus on entertainment or other activities that will make them forget about school challenges. Only a few gave responses of continuing with their studies or using the holidays to read books or cover some of the sections they had difficulty understanding during the school term. While I agree with the saying that "no work and no play makes Jack / Jill a dull boy / girl", I took advantage of these learners' responses to think of reading activities that can motivate other learners to continue reading or engage in some form of learning as they approach the school holidays. There are various activities that can keep learners involved in reading for their own personal development.

Firstly, the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that we should wash our hands with soap and water and sanitise when we move from one place to another. We are also told that the best hand sanitisers are the ones that contain 70% alcohol. Have we ever thought about the additional ingredients included in a hand sanitiser? Learners can take time to do some reading and investigate the following:

1. What is the type of alcohol involved in hand sanitisers?
2. Why is it dangerous to drink hand sanitiser?
3. What advice can you give anyone using sanitisers frequently?

Learners who are doing Science in the FET phase may want to read about physical properties of alcohol and show relevance of what they have learned at school versus their observations when they apply sanitisers on their hands. Also, teachers may want to use this exercise as a simple research project.

Secondly, learners may use this opportunity to get more knowledge on how traditional herbs are used to help with certain sicknesses. Some grannies in villages or adults in homes know of herbs that can help certain ailments. Learners can document such information so that they read to others including their future children on the value of such herbs in treating certain sicknesses.

Lastly, it has become evident in a recently trending video on social media that some people do not take culture seriously. One video shows a Clicks manager chasing a Ndebele man out of the Clicks shop for wearing traditional attire. One way of promoting reading through culture is to start discussions in homes about the value of culture in people's lives. Do families know their family tree, clan names, and their cultural attire? Both children and parents can use the school holiday opportunity to write their family history, so they understand their roots.

Prepared by: Bailey Nkuna

Email address: bailey@nect.org.za