

# Teachers' role in helping children to acquire full literacy

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# Why full literacy is important?

- Most academic learning in the school occurs via reading schoolbooks
- Reading is much more than sounding out text efficiently
- Even totally errorless and very fluent reading skill is not enough as such
- Finnish can be read fluently and accurately without reaching the goal of reading
- One may say that reading skill is sufficient when one learns from schoolbooks
- But the goal of reading is to enjoy and learn by reading, which requires comprehension
- Comprehension of written knowledge has to equal that of spoken knowledge
- PISA is understood as a recommended measure of full literacy
- Thus first duty of teachers is to guarantee pupils' full literacy as early as possible
- This opens a successful route to an enjoyable school environment to learners
- Full literacy is the most central skill a pupil has to acquire early enough

# Full literacy has been in continual fall in Finland

- PISA results falling >5x more than the mean drop of OECD countries (27/5)
- Falling has continued for more than 10 years and also PIRLS (14v) has been falling
- A likely reason is that reading interest outside school has dropped
- If true, present strategies to motivate reading have not worked
- Full Literacy acquisition is closely related to reading of leisure books
- None reads such books without a relatively full understanding of the text
- A natural way to support the acquisition of full literacy is to motivate reading
- This succeeds by offering texts with interesting content to choose from
- Why not include interesting reading alternatives as obligatory school materials?
- Their reading could then be observed e.g. by asking writing related essays
- An alternative is to use free reading oriented games, see [comprehensiongame.com](https://www.comprehensiongame.com)
- Game-based training tools reveal how important it is to use dynamic assessment
- Assessment is worthless if it fails to help out of the assessed problems

# Implications

- Compromised reaching of full literacy is the main problem e.g. in Africa
- We have tested the efficiency of our Comprehension Game in rural Africa
- Results have been very promising helping e.g. in elevating their food security
- Basic reading skills are not enough but are needed as the starting points
- For that we have developed Tale Reader app which is under testing in Africa
- It instructs reading with its goal in mind = attention on meaning from the beginning
- The earlier one learns full literacy the better one's schoolwork proceeds
- Tale Reader can instruct full literacy of transparent writings before school-age
- It is enjoyable enough to motivate children to repeat until the goal is reached
- Users understand from the beginning what is the goal of reading (full literacy)
- An efficient reader is a successful learner - learning is enjoyable to them

# How teacher can train pupils to enjoy learning?

- Comprehension Game follows a simple theory of training reading comprehension (RC)
- CG trains pupils to learn how to identify most informative/key sentences of any lesson
- It shows how not all sentences in the lessons are equal, some carry the main info
- CG is recommended to be used during the 2. grade when reading skills are sufficient
- **Learning to understand the goal of reading** should not happen later than at 2.grade
- Storing the most meaningful sentences of the lesson is the goal of learning the lessons
- Identification of most meaningful sentences is not a trivial task to an early reader
- Teachers can train themselves to implement sentences to the CG to guarantee learning
- CG helps in showing key sentences in the context of lessons to train efficient readers
- At the same time **CG trains critical reading** – a most important skill today
- The task of the player in the CG is to judge individually given sentences as true or not
- True sentences carry the key info, typical misunderstandings are chosen as "not-trues"
- To have all judged correctly requires repetition of the key info, which helps in learning
- Thus, please, try the Comprehension Game (from the address written below) **it is free**

**You will find this presentation and much more at [comprehensiongame.com](http://comprehensiongame.com)**