



Qudwa 2017 – Global Teachers' Forum Coffeehouse Sessions

"Reading Skills"

Ariel Sacks

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Ariel's main advice to teachers is to "get students to feel something that interests them and they will read." A teacher cannot force-feed knowledge. The more students do it independently, the more they are going to follow up. Find the next thing that is more challenging but of similar interest; Work on resetting the brain; Find if there are any newspapers about subjects they are interested in. Engaging the students can take different forms – from storytelling to reading to them, to involving them in creative writing. Students have the right minds, but they do not necessarily use them

The best pathway to understand something is to create interest in it. Attention in this age is the biggest saver. Putting pressure on students doesn't work. We build skills when we can relax enough.

Reading to students is important as a start. It is important to see students choose something to read. Graphic novels can be a choice for independent reading time, whether students choose to read them online or in written/printed form.

Problems teachers face are with students who come from different languages and are not proficient in the language taught at school. Teachers who teach non-native speakers face difficulties to get students to understand. Ariel recommends trying a bilingual approach to a story – such as reading original Shakespeare and modern Shakespeare at the same time.

One of the teachers said that she reads to her class and makes mistakes on purpose to pick her students' interest and encourage them to correct her.

