



Why Should a Kid Read Books?

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Hey Kid! We want you to be you. So you should read books.

You need to be a good person. It should be easy, but sometimes it's complicated. Good stories take nice people and put them in bad situations, and watch what they do. Some of those stories are on TV or in movies, or even video games, but the best stories are in books. Good books have several stories all going at the same time, weaving in and out and through each other, but the stories in most movies and TV shows are too simple to learn much from.

You need to do something to make money. You need to be part of the community. Books are full of ideas about the future and how people will behave around each other and how societies will work. Most of those ideas are wrong, because nobody can tell the future. But reading and thinking about the future is a pretty good start. It's also a pretty good middle. There is no end to the future.

You need to get better at who you are and what you do, all the time. Hopefully, when somebody else learns something new, they'll write about it in a book. Sometimes they'll make a video or a movie about the book, but it won't be as good as the book. You can read the book and learn what that person learned without going through all the crap that they went through. You probably won't even get dirty reading the book. Then you can go out in the world and try stuff and see if you learned anything, then go back to the book and reread the part that you screwed up. It's the best way to get better.

You need to enjoy your life. A good book will draw pictures inside your head and bring those pictures to life. A good book will make you a part of the story. Movies and video

games pretend they do this, but they don't. You watch a movie from the outside. You play a game from the outside. Your mind crawls inside a book and the book worms into your mind. The story plays out with you in the middle.

You need to deal with reality. Reality is way, way too complicated for anyone to fully understand, but we can break off little pieces of reality and use our imaginations to figure out how those pieces fit together. Reading a book uses exactly the same process. Reading is a great way to practice making sense of the world.

You will be you. But life is best when you become all the you there is. Fill the dark corners with light. Get some air into the stuffy places. Clean out the moldy ideas and drain the fetid ponds of foolishness. Jam some bright shiny books into your brain. There will always be room for more.

Phil Rink is a [Professional Engineer and Inventor](#), and he writes [Jimi & Isaac Books](#) for Kids