

## Fun to read English Books

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to talk about my experience reading English Books. Before that I would like to introduce myself.

My name is H Shida. I am 68 years old, working as a building manager in Tokyo. Since I was young I have been interested in English, but without any definite purpose. (It may have been a simple hope.)

Last March, I happened to hear about SSS extensive reading.

SSS means Start with Simple Stories, and there are two important points on this method. The first one is to enjoy the story, and the second one is to read a lot of books as you like.

I thought this method fit me because there seemed to be no need to feel like it's painful. So, I decided to try it.

At first I chose a picture book.

I enjoyed the picture book full of the illustrations very much.

The illustrations not only help me understand the words and the sentences but also the illustrations themselves are wonderful.

One of the picture book that I found interesting was ANDY AND THE LION.

I was fascinated by Andy's childish actions and friendship with a lion, and read it many times with joy and excitement (as if I was Andy).

In this way, I spent a lot of time reading this kind of books.

I discovered the books for children written by Roald Dahl and I read them one after another.

Soon I wanted to know his background, and fortunately I happened to find his autobiographical books in a library.

Those were books titled Boy and Going Solo.

(First I felt that these books were a little difficult for me to read but I did want to read them, and finally I was able to finish them).

With these books I learned about his childhood and his youth in Africa.

It was also a time of World War II.

Naughty young Dahl, Dahl the dignified officer, any Dahl looked great, tough, brave and I was really moved by his behavior and his personality.

Reading these books, I thought his autobiographies were as curious as his stories.

So I selected another autobiography as the next book.

Its title is *The Girl with Seven Names* written by Lee Hyeonseo.

She was an asylum seeker from North Korea now living in Seoul, but her family was in prison for illegal entry into Laos.

She came to Vientiane to help them, but The Laotian government was demanding a huge fine to free them, and she didn't have enough money to do so.

(She tried to think, but every thought came to a dead end.

There were no options. )

She had no idea what to do.

She was at a loss and was about to pray to God to help with her suffering.

Just then a kind Australian man named Dick appeared and she explained her situation.

He was so surprised and he paid the huge fine and for her air ticket to Seoul.

Dick showed her that there was another world where strangers helped strangers for no other reason than that it is good to do so.

By his kindness her mind was opened and a beautiful world appeared to her at last.

I was deeply impressed by his behavior.

In the world, there are different nations, different races, different languages and different religions, but Dick overcame these differences and he acted as a human being.

Since last March, reading English books has given me much joy.

I sometimes laugh and cry with the characters in the books.

After reading I feel something remains deep on my mind.

I wasn't the kind of person who read books before, but now I know the joy of reading.

I couldn't have imagined a year ago how I've changed now.

I think I was lucky I have started this way.

I am now thinking that I am standing at the entrance of the world of English books.

From now on I will read as many English books as possible when I have time and open the door to meet with more marvelous worlds.

I will read more books not for studying, not for knowledge but for fun and pleasure.

Thank you very much for listening.