Self-selected reading is: (1) source of our literacy & language development (vocabulary, grammar, writing style, reading ability, spelling), more powerful than direct instruction. (2) source of knowledge. (3) positive “habits of mind.”

Underlying hypothesis; comprehensible input > cause of language acquisition
Application: Apply the Optimal Input Hypothesis (Mason and Krashen, 2020)
Best acquisition when input is (1) comprehensible (2) compelling (3) rich (moves action along, provides context to help acquisition). (4) abundant - acquisition is gradual.

STAGE 1: STORIES
L1 (a) positive impact on language (b) they like it (c) leads to reading
Students NOT responsible for remembering the words; goal = enjoy the story: BUT more vocabulary acquisition than with direct instruction.

Delayed test = five weeks later (surprise)
Words acquired per minute

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Gain</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Story only</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
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<td>Story+study</td>
<td>11.4</td>
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STAGE 2: READING (eventually self-selected) > vocabulary, grammar, writing, spelling; knowledge (science, history, practical); habits of mind (empathy, tolerance of vagueness)

READING and LITERACY: value of stories, a.k.a. fiction
  (a) one hour = .6 points on TOEIC! Mason & Krashen. 2017
  https://tinyurl.com/y9tc8ha

READING and KNOWLEDGE: history, literature, science. West, R., K. Stanovich, & Mitchell, H. 1993. Reading Research Quarterly 28: 35-50. Liz Murray (Breaking Night): "Any formal education I received came from the few days I spent in attendance, mixed with knowledge I absorbed from random readings of my or Daddy's ever-growing supply of unreturned library books. And as long as I still showed up steadily the last few weeks of classes to take the standardized tests, I kept squeaking by from grade to grade."

GUIDED SSR - EASY AND INTERESTING: neglected in foreign & second language education  
Mason, B.  
http://beniko-mason.net/content/articles/2019-GSSR-before-SSR.pdf  
Truly compelling, comprehensible stories for beginners to read  
Self-selected with teacher guidance, pre-selected at first, gradual movement to full self-selection. This takes time!  
Graded readers: Students start from the lowest level of graded readers = successful, stress-free reading on the very first day. “Simple Authentic reading” after several years.  
(Current approach in foreign language: very little easy reading, rarely interesting, premature reading of difficult authentic texts.)  
100-300 graded readers > authentic  
NEXT: Self-selected reading of authentic materials: When students are ready for this, we have succeed!!!  

Access! (Learn to Love Multiple Regression!)  
https://tinyurl.com/y8jjr7l6  
Access to libraries strong predictor of scores on 2007 PIRLS, controlling for poverty.  
More time dedicated to reading instruction related to lower PIRLS scores.

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Seeing stars: How I ignored my inner librarian and got kids excited about books again!  
School Library Journal, 56(7), 26-27.)