Maturita Card 3: Literature



Do you like to read? How often do you read?

Yes, I like to read. I read [– a newspaper, my favourite magazines, and of course, the Internet all the time/every day/ once a week/about three hours a week/a lot.] / No, I don't like to read very much, I prefer [watching videos/listening to music/talking to my friends.]

· Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction books?

I like fiction better. [You can use your imagination to escape to another place or time, have different people around you, and experience a different life for a while.] / I prefer non-fiction. [You can learn something useful, and often, non-fiction is more interesting than something an author can create.]

What was the last book that you read? What was it about?

I read ... by It was about

How is reading prose different from reading poetry?

For me, [prose is easier to read, especially in English. The sentences are more natural. With poetry, you have to think about the meaning, and the rhymes can sometimes make it harder to pay attention to the idea.]

Then, how is reading drama different from reading prose and poetry?

If you find a good play, [it can be fun to try playing different characters in your head. It can be easier or harder to understand, because there is no explanation or description of what's going on like there is in prose or poetry. The meaning is mostly in what the characters are saying at that moment.] There is also the possibility of performing the play for classmates or friends, which can be a rewarding and fun experience!

What is your favourite literary genre?

I like fiction/non-fiction/poetry/drama/adventure/romance/fantasy/mystery/history/travel best because...

Have you ever read an entire book in English?

Yes, I've read ... by It was [easy/not easy to understand but I finished the whole thing. I was glad I tried it./ I was proud that I could do it.] / No, I haven't. [English isn't so easy for me, so I'm afraid that it would be boring or too difficult to understand the meaning in English.]

Do you think that a translation of a book changes the book itself?

Yes, of course, [it's impossible not to have some changes. First, some idioms and expressions don't exist in the translation, so you have to use more words to express the meaning. Second, the translator must completely understand and then re-create the author's meaning very precisely, and some translators are not so good at this.] / No, not really. [Of course, there have to be some little changes, but I don't think the main ideas change.]

· Which writers are extremely popular today?

I think that [Dan Brown, JK Rowling, and Stephen King] are popular. / I don't know [the names but, I know that the book about ... is very popular. A lot of my friends are reading it.]

· What do you think about these books?

I read ... and I thought it was [good/OK/terrible because ...] / I haven't read them myself [but my friends say/l've heard that ...]

Have you ever read a book and seen the film that was made from it? Which did you like more, and why?

Yes, I read ... and then saw the film. [I liked the book/film better because ...] / I thought they were about the same. Actually the book did ... better but the film did ... better. It depends what I read or see first.

Did your parents read stories to you when you were little? Do you think parents should read to their kids?

Yes, my parents always read to us, [usually just before we went to sleep. For a long time my favorite story was ... and I still remember it.] / No, my parents didn't [read much and we didn't either. We watched TV or played computer games.] Reading to children is important. [Young children learn to use their imagination before they can read themselves.] / No, it's not so important. [Parents are usually very busy, and anyway, talking is the most important thing.]

How has reading in your country changed in the past few years?

[Most people have the Internet or watch TV, so people don't read very much. People don't have much time so they would rather watch a DVD than read the books]. / [People still read a lot, but just not books. They read newspapers online, maybe buy fashion or music magazines, and get a lot of information on the Internet.]

Do more people buy books or borrow them from a library?

In our country, [most people buy books. If you want to have a nice book you buy it and keep it. It's something special.] / Most people in our country borrow books from the library. [Books have become very expensive and you can read as many library books as you want, for free.]

Do you think that electronic books or audio books will replace paper books in the future?

I suppose they will. [It's very expensive to cut down trees, ink uses a lot of oil, and getting the books into the bookstore uses a lot of petrol.] / No. [Electronic or audio books will be popular for a lot of people, but they can never replace a "real" book. Many people like the feeling of holding a book in their hands and turning the pages, and you can take a paper book with you, anywhere. Even to the bathtub!]