

Paper books better than e-books for bedtime stories

28th March, 2019



The march of technology may seem unstoppable, but all things digital may have a way to go before they replace the traditional bedtime book - the paper one. A new study shows that paper books are better than e-books for

bedtime reading. The study suggests that the good old printed book, with real pages that you turn with your fingers, makes parents and children interact more than they do when reading with an electronic book. Researchers from the University of Michigan studied how 37 pairs of parents and toddlers interacted with e-books and paper books. The researchers found that with electronic books, parents asked their children fewer questions and made fewer comments about the story.

The study involved observing parents and children (aged two or three) reading from three different book formats. These were printed books, basic e-books on a tablet, and enhanced e-books with features such as animation, graphics and sound effects. The researchers discovered that the parents and toddlers interacted with each other less with both types of e-books than they did with the printed books. A researcher said that when they did speak, they were far likelier to talk about the device and the technology rather than about the story. Children were likelier to say things like, "don't push that button" or "don't change the volume" than ask questions or make observations about the story.

Sources: bbc.com / marketwatch.com / newsweek.com

Writing

Paper books are better than e-books for bedtime reading. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

march / technology / digital / bedtime / reading / fingers / parents / toddlers / story / formats / e-books / tablet / animation / graphics / sound effects / technology / volume

True / False

- a) The article said technology is like when people march in step together. T / F
- b) The article said paper books lead to more parent-child interactions. T / F
- c) Researchers observed the reading habits of 37 parents. T / F
- d) With e-books, parents asked their children fewer questions. T / F
- e) The children in the study were aged between two and five. T / F
- f) Parents in the research were given three different types of books. T / F
- g) The researchers said children were not interested in the devices. T / F
- h) Researchers said children asked parents not to change the volume. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. replace | a. preschoolers |
| 2. traditional | b. improved |
| 3. interact | c. remarks |
| 4. toddlers | d. entailed |
| 5. comments | e. adjust |
| 6. involved | f. long-established |
| 7. enhanced | g. considerably |
| 8. far | h. more probable |
| 9. likelier | i. take over from |
| 10. change | j. communicate |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the best things about e-books?
- c) What is the best children's book ever?
- d) How can technology make books better?
- e) Should we delay using digital devices with children?
- f) Should we use e-books to help save trees?
- g) What book format do you think toddlers prefer?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The march of technology may seem | a. with your fingers |
| 2. the traditional | b. of e-books |
| 3. real pages that you turn | c. comments |
| 4. parents | d. volume |
| 5. made fewer | e. bedtime book |
| 6. enhanced e-books with features such | f. effects |
| 7. graphics and sound | g. unstoppable |
| 8. both types | h. about the device |
| 9. they were far likelier to talk | i. and toddlers |
| 10. don't change the | j. as animation |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of books?
- What are the good and bad things about paper books?
- What is your favourite book, and why?
- How important is bedtime reading for children?
- What do you think of the march of technology?
- Which are better - paper books or e-books?
- What are your childhood memories of books?
- What format of books will we be reading in 100 years?

Spelling

- all things itdaigl
- the driattonia bedtime book
- The study gstgeuss that
- an nlteicreco book
- parents and toddlers eatdenrtic
- made fewer mstmcoen
- three different book tmfaors
- with uetfaesr such as animation
- sound fcefest
- talk about the dvecei
- don't change the mvelou
- make stnsobiroaev about the story

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. f	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. b	8. g	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Novels

You think novels are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopedia, travel guides or English textbooks.

Role B – Encyclopedia

You think encyclopedia are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): novels, travel guides or English textbooks.

Role C – Travel Guides

You think travel guides are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopedia, novels or English textbooks.

Role D – English Textbooks

You think English textbooks are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopedia, travel guides or novels.

Speaking – Books

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| • photo books | • novels |
| • autobiographies | • encyclopedia |
| • travel guides | • how-to books |
| • English textbooks | • dictionaries |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.