

Reading

[H]igher-level reading activities have been shown to improve and reinforce the development of linguistic competence, empathy, social cognition and perspective-taking, focus and attention, cognitive patience (concentration and discipline), our grasp of the complexity of humans and their predicaments, evaluating different points of view, knowledge beyond the immediate purpose, and, finally, creativity, imagination and mental imagery.

Without deep and critical engagement with the content and language of the text we are ill equipped to counter populist simplifications, fake news, conspiracy theories and disinformation, and thus vulnerable to manipulation. This seriously endangers society's capacity for informed democratic decision-making.

**Schüller-Zwierlein et.al.,
"Why higher-level reading is important"**