

# **NARUTO IS MY BFF**

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## **Prologue**

*March, 2002*

*SMKA Kuala Lumpur*

There was once a boy, Alif who has a deep interest in comics. He fell head over heel with it. His obsession made him spent hours of his days with his eyes glued to the pages of cartoon drawings and the funny dialogues in bubbles. Comics made him get the feeling of being a warrior, pirate, superhero and even villain just by reading the pages. It made him learnt new vocabularies and discovered interesting in life- the things that adults could never see the same. His imagination ran wild and everything seems possible. Years passed yet his passion remained the same if not stronger. That was when a tragic incident happened. While staying in his hostel, Alif secretly snuck a bunch of his precious comics collection to his dorm. Unfortunately, he was caught red handed while venturing into his perfect world of comics by his disciplinary teacher. All of his massive comics were seized by that teacher and the total of it made a pile of fiery fire when the teacher burnt the comics right upon his eyes. It was the day he would never forget. The day his tears were streaming down the cheek without he even realized it.

## **Is reading comics a sin?**

Comics are considered as leisure reading at best, however adults have stereotypical view about them. They afraid when their children are reading improper reading books in the way of their thinking, thus they accuse that comics as worthless and to the extent of damaging their children's literacy when they are facing difficulties on reading books and underperform on academic attainment. Currently, comics accepted across time and benefits for classrooms setting and curriculum. Based on the Statista (2016), reading was most common among those aged five to seven at 37% in 2016. Even, 67% of respondents stated that they read more comics than they used to before turned

ten. Research emerged where shows they are motivating, enrich skills and development, as well as effective for teaching and learning session for certain circumstances such as choosing appropriate and suitability of the comics resources. For children who are starting to acquire new skill in learning concrete objects, they can learn in different ways. For example, before children are ready to start reading texts, there are pre-skills activities that could be provided such as interpreting symbols, eye-hand coordination task, creating meaning from material and following as well as understanding sequence in a story. Furthermore, comics are one of the reading materials that provide chance for children to interpret the story by their own.

## **Epilogue**

*April, 2016*

*SBPI Rawang*

Alif was a homeroom teacher for Form 1 Jannatul Firdaus. As an English teacher, he brought his students to the Book Fair event where millions of books were available to buy. He gave opportunities to his students to buy any genre of books that they loved. Upon to book payment at counter, surprisingly he saw few students bought variety of comics.

"Mr. Alif, could we bring all of these comics to the hostel while waiting the fortnight break at the end of this month?", asked one of his students. Alif smile and knew where the genres came from.

But in the meantime, how do Alif approaches and responses on comics reading for his students? Is it a disservice to them to single them out as a separate genre or is it problematic to bunch all types of comics together as a single field of study, and should he proudly proclaim himself a scholar of alternative and children's comics, and apply within the classroom setting?

## Questions

By using a blended learning, please provide a discussion for questions below.

1. What are the characteristics and elements of comics? Address the strength(s) and weakness(es) of comics in relation to the early literacy for children development.
2. Demonstrate how comics could be used as the effective pedagogy in children's learning.
3. List down the types of comics, and examples for each.
4. How comics can improve the reading comprehension for pre-reading skills and early literacy development?
5. Besides component of early literacy, discuss the added value of reading comics.
6. How teachers use comics as instructional aids in classroom setting? Propose the teacher's guidelines.
7. What are the challenges of implementation (dilemmas) of using comics in classroom setting?

Examples:

Youtube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj8A\\_qsvpe8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj8A_qsvpe8&feature=youtu.be)