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## What is Reading?

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# WHAT IS READING?

What is reading? one may ask,  
What skills must one attain  
So that he reads for meaning,  
And sees the author's aim.

Good readers think. They have intent.  
They know how much will sate  
Their needs. They skim or read details—  
All these determine rate.

We learn a skill, then others,  
But they must integrate.  
And on the "oneness" of them all  
Depends the reader's fate.

We start to read when first  
We note, sensations, all so true,  
And then relate what's new to old—  
As mental content, too.

First, one identifies the words—  
The concepts that appear.  
Then some just try to learn by rote  
These thoughts, and then stop here.

But there is more that one must do  
Than reading word by word.  
A reader needs to understand  
So meaning is not curbed.

Effective readers also judge—  
That is evaluate.  
They choose main thoughts and then detail.  
They think, they stimulate.

So reading is a way of life  
Identifying, true,  
Interpreting, evaluating,  
Integrating, too.

—B.B.