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Educating Our Own Minds

- 1) Turn away from the classroom; turn towards reading.
- 2) Accept that reading is a difficult skill to master.
- 3) Understand that reading is a three-level process.

The pattern of classical education:

Grammar stage: learn the basic facts, the
foundational elements of each subject

Logic stage: learn to think critically, to exercise
analytical skills upon subject matter, to analyze
cause and effect

Rhetoric stage: learn to express original ideas with
grace and fluency

The pattern of reading in the classical tradition

Grasp the basic information, the central ideas.

Analyze these ideas. Ask: Are they right? Are they
true? Is the evidence sound?

Express your opinion about these ideas; argue with a
friend.

- 4) Read chronologically in a single genre: fiction,
poetry, drama, history, autobiography.

- 5) Make a space for self-education.

Morning is better than evening.

Start short.

Don't schedule study every day of the week.

Never check your e-mail first!

Guard your reading time.

6) Forget about speed.