

## TOPIC OF A COMPETITION PROMOTING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Topic: The Same Book, a Different Reader: How Rereading Transforms Meaning

Goal: To investigate how the meaning of a text changes when the reader changes, using rereading as a case through which to explore the relationship between interpretation, personal experience, and the formation of meaning.

Short description (max. 2000 characters):

A book may remain physically unchanged while becoming, for the same reader, a radically different book several years later. Passages once considered important may appear trivial; previously unnoticed ideas may become central; characters may be judged differently. This raises a fundamental hermeneutic question: if the text has not changed but its meaning has, where does meaning reside?

The project will use the phenomenon of rereading to examine the relationship between text and reader. Hans-Georg Gadamer's concept of the "fusion of horizons" provides one possible theoretical entry: understanding emerges through an encounter between the historical horizon of the text and the changing horizon of the interpreter. Paul Ricoeur and other hermeneutic thinkers may provide additional perspectives on interpretation, narrative, and self-understanding.

The student may use one personally significant book as an initial case, particularly if earlier notes, annotations, reviews, or memories of the first reading are available. This case can then be supplemented by other examples or interviews with readers who have returned to important texts after several years.

The research will distinguish between merely acquiring new information and a deeper change in the structures through which a person interprets experience. The central question is: when a familiar text acquires a new meaning, have we discovered something new in the book, or has a different reader come into existence?

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