



## TO READ IS TO BELIEVE: DIGITAL READING EXPERIENCES OF SECONDARY STUDENTS IN WATTPAD ON TODAY'S DIGITAL AGE

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### Abstract

Digital reading enriches the reading and writing experiences of the students. The study aims to explore and understand the lived experiences of the selected students in Muertegui National High School who are avid readers of Wattpad as a form of digital reading. The study used a phenomenological research design. There were fifteen participants who were purposively selected through snowball sampling. The data were gathered through face-to-face interviews using semi-structured interview questions. The interview process was transcribed and analyzed through the use of thematic analysis in generating codes and theme patterns. Findings showed that students started reading Wattpad because of their curiosity and recommendations from their friends. Students also read Wattpad as a form of relaxation and entertainment. Students also experienced sleep loss and deprivation of doing school works when reading Wattpad. Most students read romance fiction stories in Filipino – English language. Furthermore, students learn to value their self, and friends upon reading the Wattpad. They also learned that textbooks were still better to read than Wattpad. The study recommends conducting a quantitative study that will survey the effects of Wattpad in the students' lives.

**Keywords:** Wattpad, digital reading, experiences, student-readers, E-books

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### 1. Introduction

In today's generation, Wattpad has become the most popular and visited online application especially among high school students. The study of Benito (2013) found out that aside from browsing social networking sites such as Facebook and Instagram, high school students also

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used their mobile phones to read stories on e-books such as Wattpad. Through the existence of the new and emerging technologies, access to this kind of digital reading application is more convenient utilizing such gadgets like portable computers and mobile phones activities than reading printed novels and books.

Digital reading become as a vital role of studying that it contributes a significant information in busy students like high school students where vast reading is a must. This practices should be integrated to everybody. However, despite the popularity of digital reading, digital reading practices inside and outside the school of adolescents is yet unknown.

According to Biagi (2005), Philippines is the second most represented having most of the stories are written in Filipino. It suggested that Filipino Wattpad writers are able to develop this digital activity than other countries did.

In connection to this, Muertegui National High School has been recorded for having numerous avid readers of Wattpad, which the researchers chose as the research topic. The study seeks to understand the reading experiences of high school students in today's generation.

This study aimed to explore and understand the reading experiences of selected high school students on using Wattpad as a form of digital reading platform. Specifically, it answers the following questions:

1. What are the reading experiences of high school students using Wattpad?
2. What literary genre and language do high school students mostly read?
3. Why do high school students are motivated in reading Wattpad?
4. What are the lessons these high school students get from reading Wattpad?

The goal of the study is to explore and understand the high school students' different lived experiences on reading Wattpad as form of digital reading platform. This study also aims to gain insights from the students for a better understanding on the nature of reading the Wattpad specifically its literary genre and language, motivation and lessons gained upon reading. Additionally, the study sought to know the high school students in-school and out-of-school reading experiences and how it affects their daily lives as a student.

This study is only limited in the exploring the different experiences of students in reading Wattpad as a form of digital reading. The study only focused on the use of Wattpad and no other forms of e-books. The study was conducted on Muertegui National High School of Brgy. Daja Diot, San Isidro, Leyte. The selected participants were avid readers of Wattpad that ages range from 13 – 20 years' old who has been reading Wattpad for at least 3 years. This study does not cover participants outside from San Isidro, Leyte and ages above 20. In this study, participants' identity was not revealed to maintain confidentiality.

The study significantly contributes in analyzing the reading practices of high school students' on using Wattpad as form of a digital material for learning. This study also benefits on helping the teachers in schools for providing the opportunity to reflect on the value of reading to students as this educational platform brings student closer to the world of reading and writing wherein it serves as a source of literary work material. Moreover, this study can also help the parents to understand the reasons why their child has less time doing household chores and school works. Additionally, the attitude influence by reading Wattpad among students will also be understood and explored. Lastly, a huge contribution to the society specifically in disseminating the importance of reading literature from local and international authors and writers across the world.

## **2. Review of Literature**

Wattpad is an important resource for everybody interested in literature (Rebora and Pianzola, 2018). This revealed that this online platform is available via web and mobile app, in which people can add their comments and response to what they are reading and engaging themselves in discussion with others. This also illustrates that students, can create a free account to start writing on Wattpad platform whatever stories they like.

According to Lenhart (2015), 92% of teens go online daily, and 24% of those teens are online “almost constantly”. A 2012 study found that 93% of teens have access to a laptop or computer at home (Madden, 2013) and survey of adolescents showed that 87% go online daily (Turner & Hicks, 2013). In addition, though adolescents themselves may not think of their internet use as reading, being online involves reading digitally.

According to Biagi (2005), “technology greatly influences the field of book publishing” (p. 309). This was significant because printing and calculating the whole process of publishing books demands an expensive cost, compare to embracing the advance technology that only calls for lower production cost that the industry benefitted the most. In this case, those printed materials will no longer be the best and first choice for these high school readers.

Furthermore, Hemus (2013) stated that “Wattpad has found its niche in the reading setting. It is the world’s largest community for discovering and sharing stories” (p.310). This tell us that this easy and free online application is in the hands for those aspiring writers in sharing and interacting with one another.

In addition, Tirocchi (2018) found out that there are more than 65 million users of Wattpad and this illustrates that reading is a result of the rampant progress of technology that leads to change. Wattpad serves as the bridge for those students and bring them closer to the world of reading which is significant as it gives the reader the opportunity to value the true essence of reading. This shows that a huge number of Wattpad readers continuously blooms.

On study conducted by Benito (2013), it was found that aside from browsing through Social Networking Sites (SNS) such as Facebook and Twitter, students also use their tablets and mobile phones for the purpose of reading which landed six spot on the survey. This means that with the help of these gadgets, readers can freely and fully have accessed their Wattpad library list. In connection to this, the reading comprehension of these high school readers enhances as this leisure reading continuous.

Harmer (2007) stated that reading is a useful for language acquisition. Provided the fact that students are more or less understand what they read, the more they read, the better they get it. (p. 70) This is significant since by reading, a person will gain a new understanding, new knowledge, new ideas and expand their views and perspective so that later, they will have high intelligence and civilization that is useful in interacting with others.

Rahman and Iwan (2019) defined Wattpad as “one of the digital technology media that can be collaborated with learning” (p.26). This shows that reading Wattpad helps students not only in developing their reading skills but also writing, grammar, vocabulary and speaking skills. To sum it up, through reading Wattpad, their reading and writing skills are further enhance.

Nowadays, students rarely read books. The desire of students in reading today is greatly decreasing (Bal, 2018, p. 8). For this reason, teachers must increase their interest in reading in today’s digital and modern era, which is a challenge in the teaching and learning process. The positive response of advance technology was shown by the educational world by integrating cyber technology and learning to respond to the needs of the industrial revolution to be able to prepare a competitive and productive millennial generation (Rahman & Iwan, 2019, p.26).

Moreover, based on the study of Ramdarshan Bold (2018) as cited by Bal (2018) Wattpad offers many new possibilities for enriching reading and writing experiences as it offers a free digital environment, feedback and an experimental environment for new and even experienced writers (p.89) which is vital for enhancing ones’ skill in writing to establish a successful and effective literature. Through this digital reading, students’ perception on content due to their exposure on Wattpad will possibly result to behavioural perspective if their needs are not considered. Considering the fact that Wattpad offers a variety of reading opportunities as well as suggest different genres, the lesson these stories imparts to the readers become significant as it depicts in real life situations.

Bal (2018) found out that participants had negative experiences with in-school reading. By contrast, out-of-school reading activities offered fun activities (p.94). Bal added that out of-school reading activity evokes happiness from the students which is vital because they can freely express their thought in the story they are reading and also, they can choose whatever genre they like without the limitations of time and place so that the learning process can be more flexible.

According to Tanjung, “students were interested in reading romance stories” (p.6). In contrast Rahayu (2019) argues that students were more interested in reading fiction stories

among any genres. Her study however lacks of evidences and information. It might have been more convincing if she conducts more interviews gathering individuals' perception related to this study.

On the other hand, Merga (2015), concluded that one of the reason why students engage in reading Wattpad is to be pleased and was significant at it was supported by Bal (2018), and claim that highest school students tend to read Wattpad for fun. In contrast, Contreras (2015) argues that not all circumstances this factors would definitely be reason for some reader to engage in reading Wattpad. Evidence shows that social media, boredom, free cost, and convenience surfaced as triggering factors too, and thus as a result they are more likely try to skip meals, forget to take a bath, disobey their parents and disregard their responsibilities in school prioritizing their reading Wattpad over school works (p. 319).

However, according to Merga (2015), “frequent readers may spend less time in social networking when compared to infrequent readers” (p.6). This tell us that frequent readers engage most of their time reading Wattpad than accessing those online applications that becomes students comfort zone such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc. Thus, these frequent high school readers categorize themselves as the most avid readers of Wattpad that helps them in molding theirselves to establish interpersonal relationship up to this digital age.

Lastly, Kardiansyah (2019), concluded that Wattpad become a source of capitals and legitimation considering that it is a social space where people produce literary works and thus earn money. This calls attention to those aspiring authors to write more interesting stories to gain not just fame in the field of literature but also serves as the main source of living. Thus, these individuals strive hard to create stories beyond their imagination that most of Wattpad readers prefer.

### **3. Method**

#### *3.1. Research Design*

The researchers used a qualitative phenomenological approach to understand the lived experiences of high school students in reading Wattpad as a form of digital reading. Phenomenological design aimed to explore the experiences from the different individuals' point of view and understanding the meaning individuals or groups to a social or human problem (Cresswell, 2008)

#### *3.2. Research Locale*

The study was conducted in Muertegui National High School, a public secondary school situated in in Brgy. Daja Diot, San Isidro, Leyte. The participants of the study who are

Wattpad readers were residing in six (6) barangays namely, Brgy. Daja Diot, Daja Daku, San Miguel, Tinago, Bunacan, and Taglawigan in the municipality of San Isidro, Leyte.

### *3.3. Participants and Sampling Procedure*

The participants of the study were 15 high school students from Muertegui National High School who were avid Wattpad readers. There were (13) females and (2) males whose ages ranged from 14 – 18 years old. The participants were purposively selected to meet the specific criteria in the study specifically the researchers utilized a snowball sampling with the help of key informants to provide access and target participant and asked for other possible referrals to provide necessary information until saturation point has achieved.

### *3.4. Data Collection Procedures*

In gathering the data, the researchers conducted a face-to-face interview using a semi structured interview to provide an open-ended question that would allow the researchers to asked further questions and allowing the participants to answer and discuss more topics in an appropriate manner. Audio recorder from mobile phones to record the responses and field notes were used as instruments. Before conducting the interview, the researchers asked for the approval of the participants, and then explained the topic to the participants. Participants were asked through Cebuano (mother tongue). The answer of the participants was transcribed verbatim in Cebuano and was subjected to analysis thereafter. The interview process lasted for an average of 10 to 15 minutes. The data collection ended upon achieving the theoretical saturation.

### *3.5. Data Analysis Procedures*

The qualitative data in a form of texts from the transcribed interviews were analyzed using a thematic analysis method. This method involved a systematically identifying, organizing, and patterns and themes from the participants' experiences and views (Braun & Clarke, 2012). The researchers first familiarized the data from the transcribed interviews and then assigned codes or shorthand labels. Then, the researchers generated related themes that describes each code on the experiences of the participants' in reading Wattpad as form of digital reading. Lastly the researchers reviewed and refined constructed the themes to ensure that themes were related to the questions.

#### 4. Results

##### *Experiences of Students in Reading Wattpad*

**Table 1.** Summary of Themes and Codes on Reading Experiences of Students in Wattpad

Themes	Codes	Participant's Meaning Units
Reading is my life	Peers Influence	Participant 13 is fond of reading thick books until a friend recommended her to read Wattpad and that caught her interest to read Wattpad.  Participant 5 loves reading books in a form of ebook until she discovered Wattpad through her sisters' suggestion.
	Curiosity	Participant 6 discovered Wattpad by herself, considering it has the most visit online application, she got curious to read Wattpad.  Through her classmate's recommendation, Participant 12 got curious to read Wattpad.
Sleep No More	Sleep Loss	Participant 9 experienced having sleep loss during weekends since she spent most of her time in reading Wattpad.  In school, Participant was always sleepy, as she spent most of her time at night in reading Wattpad, in order for her not to cut her reading session.  Participant 4 had a lack sleep because of reading Wattpad starting in the middle of the night up until 2 a.m.
"Mamaya Na"	Distraction	Participant 13, upon reading Wattpad, was not able to do the household chores and would be angry if someone disturbs her while reading.  Participant 10 give most of her attention to Wattpad, disregarding her parent's command.

### **Theme 1. Reading is my life**

In the study, it was found out that the people whom the participants often encounter, were the ones who persuaded and recommended them to try reading Wattpad. Wattpad has a wide array of stories and can be compare to a library where bookworms would definitely love to stay. Moreover, it was found out that their personal interest in reading is one of the reason why they engage in reading Wattpad as relevant in the study conducted by Contreras (2015).

*“...Grade 6 ko nagsugod ug basa sa Wattpad up until now nga Grade 9 nako. Since ato, na-avid reader najud ko sa Wattpad kay hobby man nako ang magbasa unya naa rapuy nagrecommmend na classmate sa akooa”. (**“I started reading Wattpad when I was on grade 6 up until now that I am in grade 9 already but ever since reading is my hobby. It was recommended by one of my classmate to read Wattpad since then, I became an avid reader of Wattpad.”**) P1*

*“...Grade 11 ko nagstart ug basag watpad pero eversince ganahan najud ko magbasa-basa. Naimpluwensiyahan lang gyud ko sa akong classmate’s kay angayan man daw ang mga stories sa Wattpad”. (**“I started reading Wattpad when I was in grade 11 but since then I love reading. I was influence by my classmates because according to them Wattpad is fun to read with.”**) P4*

*“...Hobby jud nako ang magbasa kay through reading man gud kay naa man kay malearn. Naay ray nagrecommmend sa akooa nga magbasa ug Wattpad, Grade 8 palang, nagstart nakog basa. Previously, ebook akong gibasa pero nindot man ang Wattpad kay makakita kag picture unya maupdate man sad nimo.” (**“I start reading Wattpad when I was in grade 8 but since then reading is my hobby and someone recommended me to read Wattpad. Previously, I read on ebooks until such time I was curious in engaging Wattpad.”**) P5*

*“...Since grade 7 man ko nagbasa ug Wattpad ug naa ray nagrecommmend sa akooa na classmate na magbasa ana tapos curious man sad ko muanang ni try kog basa.” (**“I start reading Wattpad when I was on grade 7 and my classmate recommended it to me and I got curious so I start reading.”**) P12*

*“...Nainfluence lang jud ko sa surroundings kai before I prefer those thick books talaga tapos until someone told me na pwede daw magbasa without books na dalahun pirmi, kay naa daw application ana so I try kai phone raman ang dalhun instead of books.” (**“I was influence by my surroundings because before I prefer to read books then someone told me that the stories on Wattpad are better instead of carrying those thick books.”**) P13*

*“...Grade 8 ko nag-start ug basag Wattpad hangtud karon nga Garde 11 nako and my classmate recommended it to me. Every day, 2 hours ko magbasag Wattpad,” (**“I start reading when I was in grade 8 up until now that I’m in grade 11 and my classmate recommended it to me.”**) P14*



Although some of the participants knows Wattpad by the people they often encounter, there are also those who knows this by their own capabilities.

*“...Grade 10 ko nagsugod ug basa ug Wattpad pero hobby jud nako ang pagbasa-basa eversince ug nakabalo ko na nay application ani kay na vview man naku siya as one of the site na daghn kaayu ug users” (“I started reading Wattpad when I was in grade 10 but ever since reading is my hobby and I discovered this application by myself because I see lots of users visited the site.) P6*

*“...Kahibaw ko nga naay application na Wattpad pero previously, sa ebook jud ko nagstart”. (“I know that Wattpad application exists but previously I read on e-books.) P8*

*“...Grade 11 naku kay mga 2 hours nlng guro kay busy naman jud meh labi na sa practical research I namu na kinahanglan jud ug daku nga time pero kabalo ko na nay app ani before kay mahilig man ko mag install ug apps.” (“Now that I’m in grade 11, I only spent 2 hours because of the practical research I that needs more time but I already this application before because I am very fond of installing new apps.”) P10*

## **Theme 2. Sleep No More**

In the study, participants were identified as frequent and infrequent readers of Wattpad. This has been relevant to Merga (2015) proved that most students spend their time in reading Wattpad that deprived their allocated time in doing other necessary things most especially like studying Hence, these students have a great deal managing their time.

*“...I experience having a sleep loss during weekends since I spend all my time in reading Wattpad”. P9*

*“...Magkawat-kawat sad kog time magbasa kay di ko gusto maputol ang story. Lack of sleep kay every day ko magbasa, 7 hours akong makonsume munang sa school katugon kayo ko.”. (“I don’t want to cut my reading session that’s why as far as I can I will spend most of my time reading Wattpad and I also experience lack of sleep as I read Wattpad 7 hours a day. Thus in school I feel sleepy all the time”.) P2*

*“...Mapiraw ko kada gabii kay usahay late night ko magstart ug basa unya maabtan kog mga alas 2 sa kadlawn”. (“Sometimes I lack sleep because I read Wattpad starting in the middle of the night up until 2 a.m.”) P4*

*“...8 sa gabi ko magsugod niya moundang ko mga 12 na sa kadlawn ”. (“I started at 8 p.mm and end at 12 a.m.”) P6*

*“...I experience having a sleep loss almost every day during weekends since I spend all my time in reading”. P9*

Though some participants invest most of their time reading, others manage to prioritize their personal goals preventing them to be dependent on Wattpad that lured them.

*“...Late night sleep unya halos di naku maminaw ug suguon ko sa akong mama kai mag sige nalang ko ug basa ug Wattpad. Almost every day ko magbasa ug Wattpad unya 3-4 hour ang akong makonsume sa pagbasa pero karun na Grade 11 naku kay mga 2 hours nlng guro kay busy naman jud meh labi na sa research.”* (***“I experience sleeping late at night and I won’t attentively listen to my mom because all of my attention is on reading Wattpad. I read Wattpad almost every day and consumes 3-4 hours. But now that I’m in grade 11, I only spent 2 hours because of the practical research I that needs more time.”***) P10

*“...Magtago-tago ug basa labi na sa classroom, unya magdiscuss ang teacher, magkawat-kawat ug basa. Pero karon nga Senior High School nako, di nako kaayo magbasag Wattpad kay busy naman ko kaayo, sa mga school activities na kinahanglan buhatun on time. “(“I sometimes hide while reading Wattpad especially inside the school where teachers are still discussing in front. But now that I’m in grade 12, I spent less time reading than before because of the hectic schedule I have complying those activities that are needed to be done on time.”)* P1

*“...Karo hinuon nga Grade 11 nako, less na kaayo ang time nga akong gispend para magbasa ug Wattpad kay as in busy naman gyud kaayo, kung karon ang deadline, kailangan karon jud ipass ba.”* (***“But as of now that I’m on grade 11, I spent less time reading Wattpad since I prioritize those school works because deadline is deadline we need to pass.”***) P5

*“...Every day, 2 hours ko magbasag Wattpad, pero di man sad ko madistract. Stress reliever nako ang Wattpad kai akong humanon ang akong assignment dayun para magWattpad, (“I read almost every day and consumes 2 hours. Wattpad becomes my stress reliever because I would immediately finish doing my assignments so that I can read my stories in Wattpad.)*

Dealing with the time in engaging Wattpad is quite challenging for participants since high school students like them were unpredictable that sometimes hype the level of their excitement.

### **Theme 3. Mamaya Na**

In the study, the continuous engagement of the participants in reading waatpad leads them to be addicted to it as relevant on Merga (2015). It was revealed that they devoted most of their time reading to the point that it meddles doing their household chores and school woks.

*“...Di naku maminaw ug suguon ko sa akong mama kai mag sige nalang ko ug basa ug Wattpad. (“I won’t attentively listen to my mom because all of my attention is on reading Wattpad.”)* P10

“...Dili nako masugo ni mama kay magsige naman lang ko ug basa ug Watsapp unya di ko man ko muondang if di naku mahuman ug basa ang story.” (***“I won’t listen to my mom because my attention is on reading Watsapp and I won’t stop on reading until I finish the story.”***) P12

“As in sa pagbasa naku ug Watsapp di najud ko hapit magpasugo tapos masuko ko pag distubuhon ko while nagbasa sa akong Watsapp.” (***“As I read Watsapp I won’t do my house chores anymore because my attention was on reading Watsapp and I would be angry if someone disturbs me while reading.”***) P13

“...Di nako molihok sa tarbahuon sa balay kay gusto man gud nako nga mahumaan ang story. Di nako makatuon kay magsige naman kog basa ug Watsapp, mao ng ig kaugma, magsige nalang kog panundog sa akong seatmate”. (***“I am not able to do my house chores properly since my only concern is to finish the story that I read. I will not study anymore since the time I allot for studying will be consume for reading Watsapp and as a result I will copy the answers of my seatmate because I don’t have any answers.”***) P6

*Preferred Literary Genre*

**Table 2.** Summary of Themes and Codes on Preferred Literary Genre in Reading Watsapp

Themes	Codes	Participant’s Meaning Units
Love and Fear	RomCom	Participant 11 preferred romance as it contributes maturity to her childish acts and reads taglish stories.  Horror and suspense stories were the literary genre chosen by Participant 9 and Taglish as her preferred language.  Participant 14 preferred the teen fiction stories since it captivates the true to life stories of being a youngster.
	Choosing Taglish	Taglish stories was the genre preferred by participant 1 since Filipino language make it easy to understand.

#### **Theme 4. Love and Fear**

Whatever literary genre these participants read, it was found out that learning is evident to it. Reading increases and improves one's vocabulary, grammar and speaking skills. It also forces readers to look at words that they might not have seen or heard before. Although these things help one enhances reading comprehension, participants also gain more knowledge. This result is relevant to Rahman and Iwan (2019) where most students read for learning purposes that contributes to their educational needs.

*"...Mubasa man ko bisag unsa na genre be it fantasy, teen fiction or sci-fi pero mas ganahan jud ko sa romance kai somehow nay maturity na contribute sa akong childish acts. English gud talaga ako gusto kai nanginahanglan jud kog new words para sa pagsulat naku ug poem."* (***"I read any genres, be it fantasy, sci-fi, but I really prefer romance because somehow it contributes maturity to my childish acts. I always read stories with English language since I am very eager to learn new words that I can utilized in writing poem since our teacher requires us to"***) P11

*"...Naa man koy mga new english words nga mahibaw-an unya para sad maimprove akong grammar".* (***"I always pick stories in English language, with this, I can get new English words and can even improve my grammar skills."***) P13

*"...Taglish jud na ang language para masabtan nako dayon akong gibasa kay naa may Tagalog, naa poy English tas ang mga words na 'grin' 'droll' ug 'stroll' na nabasa naku sa Wattpad kai nagamitan sad naku".* (***"Taglish is my language preference in reading Wattpad, for me to easily undertstand the story that I am reading as it has a mixture of Filipino and English language. The words grin, droll, and stroll that I only read on Wattpad was a big help"***) P1

*"...I'm more interested in horror than any literary genre because it inspires me write a horror stories. In reading Wattpad, I usually use English language for me to get some new words that I can surely use in any particular situation."* P8

*"...Romance jud akong genre nga ganahan , pero mobasa man sad kog sci-fi pero mas prefer jud nako ang romace. Di jud puro English, Taglish man akong mas prefer kay para dili ko maglisod ug sabot sa uban nga English words".* (***"I prefer reading teen fiction but I also read sci-fi. In reading, I always choose Taglish stories so that it will not be difficult for me to understand some English words since those English words are accompanied by Filipino terms."***) P 14

*"...Namotivate ko ug basag Wattpad kay kuan man mas na enhance akong speaking skills ug grammar sa pagbasa naku ug Wattpad."* (***"Through reading Wattpad, my speaking and grammar skills is further enhanced, that is why I am motivated to read stories from Wattpad"***.) P10

“...Motivated ko nga mobasag Wattpad since ganahan jud ko magbasa-basa niya ganahan man sad kod maghimo-himog story. Sa pagbasag Wattpad makakuha man sad kag idea kung unsay nindot nga flow sa story.” (***“I am motivated in reading Wattpad since reading and writing a story is my hobby. Through reading Wattpad, I can get ideas of how will the story flow beautifully.”***) P12

“...Na interested ko pag-ayu na magbasag Wattpad tungod atong gipahimo mi ni sir ug story. Nagbasa jud kog story para mahibaw-an kung unsay style sa author niya kung unsaon bajud paghimo ug nindot nga story.” (***“I was more interested to read Wattpad because of the project that our teacher told us, and that was to make a story. I really read stories from Wattpad to know how to make a good story and as well know the authors style in writing a story.”***) P15

These lessons they get from Wattpad help them shape themselves and the main reason why they continuously engage in reading Wattpad.

*Student’s Motivation in Reading Wattpad*

**Table 3.** Summary of Themes and Codes on Student’s Motivation in Reading Wattpad

Themes	Codes	Participant’s Meaning Units
Emotional Fulfillment	Inspiration	Through reading Wattpad, Participant 5 thought that she feels more inspired in the character of the story than to her crush.  Participant 1 was inspired by what the character of the story is doing, also through this, she gains to be more mature as an individual.  The speaking and grammar skills of Participant 12 was further enhanced which motivates her to read Wattpad and writes beautiful stories.
Stress Reliever	Relaxation	Participant 12 reads Wattpad P12 in order to feel relax and stress free.  Wattpad becomes the stress reliever of Participant 14 after doing her assignments  Participant 9 chose Wattpad because it gives her relaxation, freedom and entertainment.

### Theme 5. Emotional Fulfillment

Aside from a source of learning, it was also revealed that the participants learn many things at Wattpad and that they apply in their own lives. For instance, Wattpad enhances their creativity and imagination. Moreover, it provides solutions to their problems and influences them to change their beliefs and serve as a way towards knowing their identities as persons that was relevant on Contreras (2015).

*“...Ang mga gipang-ingon sa character kay makainspired jud sa akoa labi na kung unsa ilang buhaton if makaencounter sila ug challenges sa ilahang life. Tas namature pod ko sa pagbasa sa ilang story na sometimes kahibaw naku if unsa akong buhatun sa usa ka situation.”* (***“I am inspired by what the character says and do in the stories when they encounter something tragic and challenging situations in their life. As I continue reading Wattpad, I think I am more mature in the sense that I know what to do.”***) P1

*“...Motivated ko nga mobasag Wattpad since ganahan jud ko magbasa-basa niya ganahan man sad kod maghimo-himog story. Sa pagbasag Wattpad makakuha man sad kag idea kung unsay nindot nga flow sa story.”* (***“I am motivated in reading Wattpad since reading and writing a story is my hobby. Through reading Wattpad, I can get ideas of how will the story flow beautifully.”***) P12

*“...Namotivate ko ug basag Wattpad kay kuan man mas na enhance akong speaking skills ug grammar sa pagbasa naku ug Wattpad.”* (***“Through reading Wattpad, my speaking and grammar skills is further enhanced, that is why I am motivated to read stories from Wattpad.”***) P11

*“...Namotivate ko nga magbasag Wattpad tungod atong gipahimo mi ni sir ug story. Nagbasa jud kog story para mahibaw-an kung unsay style sa author niya kung unsaon bajud paghimo ug nindot nga story.”* (***“I was motivated to read Wattpad because of the project that our teacher told us, and that was to make a story. I really read stories from Wattpad to know how to make a good story and as well know the authors style in writing a story.”***) P15

For some participants, Wattpad becomes an instrument that lightens up their mood.

*“...Namotivate ko nga mobasag Wattpad kay naa man koy maadopt sa pagbasa ug Wattpad like sa love nga makontrol na nimo imong emotions ba, bisag kahilakon naka, mapugngan nimo nga di ipakita ang imong true nga emotions sa uban.”* (***“I am motivated in reading Wattpad as it contains lessons that I can apply like in love stories, I already know how to control my emotions that even if I am in the verge of crying, I am able to stop and hide my true emotions to the persons surrounding me.”***) P3

*“...Motivated ko nga mobasa ug Wattpad kay kilig man siya, kanang feeling ba nga mas kiligon pa ka sa character nga naa sa Wattpad kaysa sa imong crush.”* (***“I am motivated in***

***reading Wattpad because it gives me a tremendous “kilig”, that feeling that you are more inspired with the characters in the story than to your crush”.) P5***

*“Namotivate ko nga magbasag Wattpad kay naa man kay maadopt sa pagbasa ug Wattpad like sa love nga makontrol na nimo imong emotions ba, bisag kahilakon naka, mapugngan nimo nga di ipakita ang imong true nga emotions.” (“I am in reading Wattpad because through this, I can learn lessons most especially about love, that you can already control your emotions even if you are in the verge of crying, still you are able to hide your true emotions from your surroundings”.) P7*

### **Theme 6. Stress Reliever**

In the study, it was showed that participants read to be pleased helping them to released their sadness and anticipation over things. The boredom of this participants feel whenever they got nothing to do results on reading on Wattpad instead. Since stories from Wattpad can be accessed without spending a cent and can be read on mobile phones and tablets, they do not hesitate to engage into it because of the convenience they experience and was relevant on Contreras (2015).

*“...2 hours ko magbasag Wattpad. Stress reliever nako ang Wattpad kai after naku mag assignment marelax man ko magbasa sa stories. “*

***(“I consume 2 hours reading Wattpad and it becomes my stress reliever because after doing my assignments I feel relax reading stories in my library list.”) P14***

*“...Ma enjoy ko sa featured stories sa Wattpad. Mubasa ko sa akong free time, kay boring man niya for fun and entertainment raman siya sa akoo.” (“I enjoy reading their featured stories offered and I read Wattpad during my free time because I literally got bored and reading Wattpad serves as my entertainment.”) P15*

*“...Makaconsume kog 2-3 hours sa pagabasa during my vacant time. Twice a week ko magbasa ug Wattpad kung naa koy vacant kay pamapatanggal stress pud ug para malingaw.” (“I can consume 2-3 hours reading on my vacant time and I read twice a week only to lessen stress and also for me to relax.”) P12.* As a form of relaxation, these participants continuously engage in reading Wattpad making a constant connection for their selves.

*Lessons Learned in Reading Wattpad*

**Table 3.** Summary of Themes and Codes on Students' Lessons Learned

Themes	Codes	Participant's Meaning Units
Enhances one's personality	Self – love	<p>Through reading Wattpad, Participant 3 learns to be stronger and can decide wisely already.</p> <p>One thing that Participant 12 learns in Wattpad was to be yourself in any circumstances.</p> <p>Participant 7 learned that you must give someone another chance, also pursue your dreams.</p>
	Family and Friends	<p>Prioritizing your family is one lesson that P15 learned in reading Wattpad.</p> <p>Participant 8 learned that in the end, friends will always be friends.</p>
Textbook is more powerful	Books vs Wattpad	<p>Participant 13 preferred textbook as her main goal was to get high grades.</p> <p>Participant 9 preferred textbook as it gives her wide information about a specific topic.</p>
	Bored	<p>Participant 6 preferred Wattpad as it entertains her than books that is boring to read with.</p>



### **Theme 7: Enhances one's personality**

It was revealed that one of the reason of the continuous engagement of reading Wattpad is the sense of freedom that contributes to the well-being of an individual boosting their self-esteem that these participants felt and was relevant on Merga (2015) proved that this application helps students to walk away from everything and feel at ease.

*“...Na open-minded ko tungod sa Wattpad. Nalearn nako nga dapat imo pasayluon, ug tagaan nimog chance ang nakasala sa imo. (**“Because of Wattpad, I am now open-minded. I have learned that I must forgive and give chance to those persons who did bad things to me.”**) P1*

*“...Akong nalearn na dapat maging strong kung makaencounter man ug challenges sa life. Dapat mature nata maghunana or magdecide para walay maapektuhan sa imong decision.”*

*(**“What I have learn upon reading Wattpad was, I must be strong in every challenges that I will be facing. I must be mature in making decisions so that no one will be affected by the decisions that I have made.”**) P3*

*“...Akong nalearn sa Wattpad kay dapat maging independent naka, in a way nga dli naka magsalig ug mag-agad sa uban kung naa man kay himuon, kay no one stays because everyone leaves.”*

*(**“What I have learned as I read Wattpad is that, you must be independent in such a way that you will not rely anymore on others in doing something, in a reason that no one stays because everyone leaves.”**) P11*

*“...One thing nga akong nakuha sa pagbasag Wattpad kay be yourself jud, though others may not like your attitude, still don't hide, instead show who you truly are.” (**“One thing nga akong nalearn sa pagbasag Wattpad kay be yourself jud, though others may not like your attitude, still don't hide, instead show who you truly are.”**) P12*

*“...Ang akong lesson nga nakuha is itug-an jud ang tinuod bisag unsa man ang mahitabo.”*  
*(**“The lesson that I have learned is that, whatever happens you must tell the truth.”**) P13*

On the other hand, some participants revealed lessons about personal relationship.

*“...Sa pagbasag Wattpad kay nalearn nako nga family first jud, bisag unsa pana nga circumstances, iprioritize jud nato dapat atong family.” (**“In reading Wattpad, I have learned that we must prioritize our family whatever circumstances that we will face, to sum it up, family first.”**) P15*

*“Because of Wattpad, I learn to give value to those people who are close to you.”*

*“...Na aware ko if kung buwagan ka, unya mubalik siya mangayog second chance, tagai siyag chance kay kahibaw man ka love pa nimo. Nalearn pod nako nga bisag unsa nga struggle akong masugatan, dapat pursue lang gihapon sa dream.” (**“I have learned that if he/she breaks up with you and suddenly comes back asking for another chance, give her/him a***

***second chance because you know to yourself that you still love him. I also learned that nevertheless of the struggles that you will face, still pursue your dreams”.) P7***

***“...Sa pagbasa naku ug Wattpad, ang lesson about friendship jud ang di naku makalimtan kai naapply man jud cya naku, nga dapat kung makasala ang imo friend sa imo, pasayluon jud nimo siya kay dili baya ta perfect and we also made mistakes.” (“As I read Wattpad the lesson that I learned about friendship that I will never forget is that, if your friend did something bad towards you, forgive him/her because we are not that perfect, we also made mistakes.”) P8***

### **Theme 8: Textbook is more powerful**

Students indicate that school aims to teach as many people as possible in as more time as possible, leaving little room for the development of their individual interest. It was revealed on the study that the participants feel the need to search this platform where they can dive into their own interest for self-satisfaction. They have different responses upon selecting their desire. Nevertheless, they had different attitudes in different learning sources as similar to the result of Lacle (2018). Hence, they differ in their preference of the material source of learning.

Participants chose reading textbooks since aside from prioritizing their studies, they believed that educational materials such as books and textbooks makes a huge contribution for achieving their desire goals Merga (2015). They also chose reading textbooks because of the convenience they experience in learning.

***“...Mas prefer naku ang textbooks because more information man ako makuha para makat-un sulod sa school.” (“For me, these textbooks give me so much information that I need to get educated and I often read textbooks than Wattpad inside the school”). P9***

***“...Mubasa man gihapon ko ug mga textbooks sa school kai para mana sa akong studies kai focus man gud kaau ang textbooks sa mga important na information.” (“I still read textbooks in the school since it is for my studies and it focuses on the important information I can learn”) P11***

***“...Gitagaan gihapun naku ug daku nga time akong studies kai for fun ug entertainment raman naku ang pagbasa ug Wattpad. (“I give more time in my studies since reading Wattpad serves as one of my entertainment only.”) P12***

***“...Naa koy daghan nga time para magbasa ug mga textbooks sa school kay main goal man naku ang makakuha ug high grades. Actually for entertainment lang man naku ang Wattpad in the sense na naa najud cyay daku nga connection sa akong life as a student.***

***(“I have so much time reading rextbooks since my main goal is getting high grades. Actually, reading Wattpad is just a form of entertainment for me that builds a connection to my student life.) P13***

Participants chose reading Wattpad since this online site helped them to improve the basic knowledge that these students acquired at school Korobkova (2014). They revealed that some of the practices they learned online could not relate with what they learned at school and this informal learning that happens outside the classroom or in an structured setting means that self-direction and personal experience is something spontaneous and experimental giving them more control over their own learning process as relevant on (Lacle, 2018)

*“Wattpad, is quite helpful since it is an application that gives you not just entertainment but also freedom.” P9*

*“Sa Wattpad is di jud ko pul-an kai interested man ko sa akong gibasa unya malingaw man ko kai di man ko dukaon habang nagbasa.” (“I am interested in reading Wattpad for it entertains me a lot since it keeps me from falling into sleep while reading.”) P10*

*“Mas interested ko sa Wattpad kay malingaw man jud ko unlike sa textbook nga katugon ko magbasa kadugayan unya boring pajud.” p6 (“I am interested in Wattpad because it entertains me unlike textbooks that is boring and as time goes by, makes you want to sleep.”) P6*

*“...Sa Wattpad malingaw man jud ko unya ako ng own nga interest nga mobasa jud ana kanang wa ko napugos. Daghan sad kog English words nga makuha gikan sa Wattpad kay bright kaayong author.” (“Reading Wattpad entertains you and it is my own interest that’s why I spent time on reading. I learn new words from reading Wattpad because the author is truly to be admired of because of her intelligence.”) P4*

Furthermore, participants have their own preference between reading textbooks and Wattpad with their own reasons. They consider different factors like boredom and interest in reading.

## 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

This study shows that reading Wattpad has become part of participant-reader’s lives. Wattpad appears to be playing a big role not just as a medium for reading and learning sources but also as a medium that satisfies the participant’s emotional and cognitive needs and wants. It was also revealed that the engagement of students in reading Wattpad results to the boredom and convenience they experience in reading. In connection to this, textbook over Wattpad are being compared. Hence, they also have different perspective upon choosing between the two. Furthermore, students gain important information offered by these learning resources. Moreover, students learn a lot of life lessons from reading Wattpad. They become mature and open-minded person where they only focus on their goals. A goal to become a better person to oneself. Furthermore, student’s attitude towards reading enhances. However, as this engagement of Wattpad continuous students were likely to be more addicted to it.

The study further recommends that digital reading must be part of activities during reading month celebration. The teachers teaching literature both in Filipino and English must consider using stories from Wattpad in integrating their lessons. Furthermore, students must also encourage to write their own stories using local language and localized stories and use Wattpad as a medium to publish their stories and appreciate by lots of readers nationwide. Lastly, for future researchers, a follow up study using a quantitative approach must be conducted to survey Wattpad readers on the effects of Wattpad in their lives and to conduct a study that focuses on students who are Wattpad writers.

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