

## Research on Junior Middle School English Homework Design ---Taking Reading Assignment Design as an Example

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**Abstract:** Homework is an effective extension of classroom teaching and an indispensable part of the teaching process; it is an important way for students to further consolidate the knowledge and skills which is learned in the classroom; it is also an important bridge for communication between parents and children or between parents and teacher. Therefore, a reasonable and effective homework design is particularly important. Recently, there has been more interest in English homework design and evaluation because of the “Double Reduction” policy. In this study, we focus on homework design for English Reading from the Perspective of Core Competences.

**Keywords:** English Homework Design, Reading Homework, Core Competences

### I. Introduction

At present, affected by some social factors and deep-rooted tradition concepts, there is still a certain market for test-oriented education. The form of homework is single, and the content is boring. That homework emphasizes the mastery of knowledge and cultivates student's test-taking ability. In actual teaching, most teacher design of English homework still follows the traditional vocabulary. The new curriculum reform advocates the cultivation of students' core competences. The English curriculum standards refine the core competencies, clarify the correct values and attitudes, indispensable qualities, and key abilities that students should acquire in learning subject, which include language ability, cultural awareness, thinking capacity, and learning ability, with an ultimate goal of implementing the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education.

English reading assignment design is very important part of English homework reform. Therefore, this paper will be taking English reading assignment design as an example to explore the scientific and practical design of English homework.

## II. Literature Review

### 2.1 Definition

Copper (1989) pointed out that “homework” is a learning task that teachers arrange for students to complete after class.

“Practical Education Dictionary”(1995): pointed out that homework is a learning activity completed independently by students in order to complete their learning tasks.

Homework includes both in-class and extra-curricular. Homework is an extension of classroom learning and can help students understand, consolidate, and digest the knowledge they have learned in class.

English homework design in this article, the author defines English homework as follows : English homework is a type of English teachers teaching activities; it is also an important way for students to consolidate their English knowledge and improve their English skills by completing English -related exercises; it is also an important way for English teachers to evaluate students.

### 2.2 Literature Review

The main homework set was reading, leaning, spelling and listening. Teachers will choose the simple way to assignment the homework, so students are not interested in English homework. But with the implementation of the double reduction policy and the content of the English curriculum is the basis for developing students subject core competences, which consists of four components: language ability, cultural awareness, thinking capacity, and learning ability. So English homework design especially English reading homework design occupies an important position.

## III. Research Design

### 3.1 Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is to explore the present situation of English homework in English reading assignment design. Here we take more case to explain the current design guidelines for English reading assignments.

### 3.2 Research Subjects

The subjects of this study are teachers and students from Junior Middle School.

### 3.3 Questionnaire

Questionnaires are any written instruments that present respondents with a series of questions or statements to which they are to react either by writing or their answers or selecting form among existing answers.

### 3.4 Case Analysis

In this part, the author will collect junior high school English reading assignment and make a detailed analysis on them.

## IV. Analysis and Discussion

### 4.1 Analysis of Questionnaires

This status survey is related five specific aspects: the amount and difficulty of English homework; the sources and the forms of English homework; the purpose and design of English homework; the evaluation of homework and impact of double reduction policy.

According to those date it is easy to find that most of the teachers’ pay more attention to the English assignment and realize the important of it. and also, they take many ways to assignment the homework in order to improve the students study interesting. and also, teachers began to pay more

attention on students' homework.

#### 4.2 Case Analysis

In order to make sure the current situation of junior high school English homework assignments we will take more case.

##### 1. Class Reading assignment design

As for the reading assignment design, we choose Grade 8 Volume 1 Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press module 7 A famous story unit 2 she was thinking about her cat.

This is a fairy tale about Alice's adventures. The reading objects is to understand the main idea of the story, to understand the sequence of events in a story, to continue a story, to write a story about one's experience.

Teacher A homework design for module 7 A famous story unit 2 she was thinking about her cat.

Homework design for the main idea:

1. ask students listen to the recording and match the main ideas of each paragraph.
2. read and number the events in the order they happened and make out the timeline.
3. draw out the mind map.

Homework design for the details:

1. students read and look for "was/were doing..." sentences.
2. read and find out the phrases

Homework design for feedback: try to retell the story

1. Retell Para.1 according to the key structures.
2. Fill in the blanks in the para.2
3. finish para.3

Homework design to consolidate

1. Remember the words of unit2 and finish the unit 2 in Red Book.
2. A writing about your story.

Those homework designs are very detailed. step by step, from the outside to the inside. Students can clearly understand the content of fairy tales with the help of homework.

Teacher B homework design for module 7 A famous story unit 2 she was thinking about her cat.

Reading part homework design

1. watch a video about the story and answer what they were doing

Alice	Was sitting with her sister by the river
The white rabbit	Was running
The Cheshire cat	Was sitting in a tree and smiling at everyone
The march hare, the mad hatter and a mouse	Were having a tea party in the garden
The queen of hearts	Was playing a strange game

Summary: what was/were sb doing? sb was /were doing

2. read in roles and fill in the blank with the pictures

One day, Alice \_\_\_\_\_ with her sister by the river. and she was saw a white rabbit. It \_\_\_\_\_ with a watch. Because it was late. Then she saw the Cheshire cat.

It \_\_\_\_\_ in a tree and \_\_\_\_\_ at everyone. next Alice arrived at the March hares house, he \_\_\_\_\_ with the Mad Hatter and a mouse. they \_\_\_\_\_ a tea party in the garden. Finally, Alice met the Queen of Hearts. She \_\_\_\_\_ a strange game.

3. try to understand the whole story with the link words: one day, first, second , then , next, finally and

try to lead students to write a story with these words .

4. try to draw a picture book story.

Teacher C homework design for module 7 A famous story unit 2 she was thinking about her cat.

1. Read the dialogue and complete the sentences with the words in the box.

2. Read after the recording

3. Read in different roles

4. Try to act it out

It can be seen from the homework assigned by the three teachers above, teachers began to pay attention to the effectiveness, hierarchy, interest and practicality of homework. begin to guide students from listening, reading, writing, watching and thinking and other aspects of the ability of integration.

According to precision design, teachers should take the unit work which implement double reduction requirement and focus on reduce volume, improve quality, and increase interest.

The unit work including five part: preparation in advance, group working, report grinding, detect fine adjustment and collection and archiving.

As for the reading assignment design, we choose Grade 8 Volume 1 Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press module 5 Lao She Teahouse unit 2 it describes the changes in Chinese society.

Preparation in advance: Let students know about Lao She's life and experience.

Group working students are familiar with the teahouse story. Do the role play and adapted drama performance.

Report grinding present the overall story content, summarize, analyze the connotation of the article, and sort out the cultural consciousness. Through the description of teahouse characters, reveal the characters' heart and social and cultural conditions at that time.

Detect fine adjustment: as for this part, students will sort out the content of the article, establish content connection, distinguish paragraphs and layers, and look for key words and key sentences. make breakthroughs in morphology, syntax and grammar.

Collection and archiving: sort out the synopsis of the teahouse story, master the thinking of reading, reasonably analyze the theme of reading, and clarify the meaning of the text from the details.

Homework design presents a multi-modal trend. The core of homework design is to stimulate students learning motivation and interest, so that students can master the key points of knowledge in homework.

Extracurricular reading assignment design including several key points: Collection of frequently read words, read a collection of high-frequency phrases, Read the details summary, Reading Topic Analysis, Read a genre summary, so when teacher design the extracurricular reading assignment design a layered reading strategy is needed. After students finish the required work, they begin to choose to do some work that is appropriate to their ability level, so that students can get interested in the work.

Here we will take passion for winter sports ignited as the example. The homework design as the follow.

Everyone must do homework:

1. Read through and check the topic sentence for each paragraph.

2. Divide the passage into paragraphs and explain why.

Everyone chooses to do homework

1. Analyze and summarize the topic of the passage.

2. Talk about your impressions of the Winter Olympics.

Extensional work

Name the events of the Winter Olympics and the athletes.

Simulate a winter Olympics project explanation.

## VI. Conclusion

The present study complemented the homework time indicator by additional homework variables. It is, however, clearly necessary to expand homework research by describing the entire homework process in more detail. For instance, homework assignments differ not only in quantity, but also in quality. So, teachers should pay more attention for homework design and make the great achievement.

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