**Card 11**

***Books have a positive influence on many people’s lives***

* *What is the role of book in your life?*
* *What is your favourite book?*
* *If you could be any character of a book who would you be and why?*

Books are important tools, or at least they can be. Many people consider the reading of books to be simply another form of entertainment, such as watching television or listening to music.

It is a well-known fact that reading is a very popular activity and it is not strange. According to various articles, reading increases mental stimulation, keeping your brain active, it is a great stress reduction and no matter how much stress you have at work, at study or other issues faced in life, it all slips away when you lose yourself in a great story.

The joy of reading books can't be described in words. It's something that you understand only by real experience. Reading books gives you a needed break from the chaos (['keɪɔs] хаос) in your life. When you read a book, it feels great to put yourself into a world the writer has created for you. Reading a book is the same like watching a movie.

When you spend several hours reading a book, you create a world of your own in your mind. You fill this world with different characters and scenes. This increases your imagination powers and helps you to think about your ideas more visually. Depending upon what you read, you will come out with the same experience as you do when you watch a great movie. People say that reading books is the best medicine to kill boredom (['bɔ:dəm] скука, тоска).

Nobody will deny that there are different genres (['ʒɔŋrəz] жанр) to choose and any reader can find something special.

Frankly speaking, I am a fan of reading too. I cannot affirm ([ə'fɜ:m] утверждать) that I like reading only books of one genre. I want to say that detectives and historical novels are interesting for me, however, it is the fact that I like reading fantasy books.

Why do I like fantasy? It is so because this genre can offer some type of escapism ([ɪs'keɪpɪz(ə)m ], [es'keɪ-] бегство от действительности) from work or school into a very different reality. While reading a good fantasy book, I can forget different problems I face every day: homework, housework and business.

My favourite one is “Harry Potter”. As everyone knows it is a series of seven fantasy novels written by the British author J.K. Rowling. At present this novel is always mentioned at the top of the most popular books. The story about various adventures of a young wizard Harry Potter and his friends Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger has sales of over 400 million copies.

If I could bring a character from a fantasy book to life, it would be definitely this young wizard Harry Potter. Why? The answer is quite simple. I would like to present you the quotation of the author of the book, J.K. Rowling: “As everyone knows Harry is forced to make his own decisions from an early age on.” Personally I believe that we have to admit that Harry Potter is a real fighter, he is rather competitive, and very active. That is what I like most of all. I do admire his qualities and that would be just great to meet such a person in reality. I am convinced that having such a friend would enrich my life and teach me to be stronger.

Summing up, I would like to say that reading a book you open new horizons for yourself. Books improve our mood, give us knowledge, teach us to think and feel, and develop our imagination. With the help of books we can travel through time and space and experience a lot of adventures. Books can form our values and our characters. One can learn a lot by reading books. And I am sure that the time spent on a good book is never wasted. The habit of reading a good book daily will act like an exercise for your mind and keep you mentally fit and flexible.

Try to follow the words said by Jim Rohn, an American writer “Miss a meal if you have to, but don't miss a book”.