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Ladies and gentlemen, today we stand before you to argue for the motion: reading short stories is the most effective way to learn English. As English has become a universal language across the globe, selecting the correct and most efficient method to learn it is crucial for successful language acquisition.

Undoubtedly, reading short stories is immersive, if not mesmerizing. The process of comprehension directly correlates with rapid learning. By diving into the world of the language, where native speakers with excellent proficiency have crafted these stories, learners gain infinite potential to master different expressions, idioms, and figurative language that they would not encounter elsewhere. Toby, an award-winning linguist, often states that "the best way to learn a language is to be immersed in that language." This is why even advanced English learners rarely achieve native-like proficiency without immersion. We believe that readers, as active learners, can achieve this immersive experience through stories, fostering genuine interest and providing the perfect environment for learning. Not only do they acquire enhanced vocabulary, but this approach also sets them apart from other learners.

Moreover, short stories provide repeated exposure to complex scenarios, which boost our comprehension skills and reading fluency. Stories ranging from simple tales like Little Red Riding Hood to complex narratives like The Gift of the Magi all present multiple layers of situations and characters. These intricate scenarios push readers to comprehend more deeply, think more critically, and read more quickly. This certainly results in a significant upgrade in understanding, reading skills, and overall fluency.

Furthermore, while some claim that reading short stories is not only useless for speaking but actually hinders speaking skills, we are confident in refuting this misunderstanding. Reading directly benefits speaking abilities. To substantiate this claim, researchers at the University of Oxford collected data from people learning English as a second language. The study revealed that over 90% of respondents reported that reading stories boosted their speaking ability. Due to improvements in processing speed and comprehension, they felt as if subtitles were appearing in their minds, making it much easier to speak, listen, and write.

To conclude, there is no doubt that reading short stories can make a profound difference in English language learning. Through this uniquely immersive

experience, learners achieve immediate improvement in their English proficiency. To our opponents, we challenge you to identify any other method that offers such comprehensive, multi-faceted benefits for language learning. Thank you.