

A child of the jago

A Child of the Jago: Navigating Poverty, Resilience, and Hope in Victorian London

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I. The Jago's Shadow The Jago, a notorious Victorian slum nestled in the heart of London, was a crucible of hardship, a place where poverty held sway and life expectancy was tragically short. Its labyrinthine alleys and decrepit tenements served as a stark illustration of the vast social inequalities characterizing 19th-century Britain. Understanding "a child of the Jago" requires moving beyond mere geographical location; it necessitates a deep dive into the relentless poverty, the pervasive violence, and the surprisingly tenacious resilience that defined life within its confines. The social and economic climate of the era—marked by rapid industrialization, unfettered capitalism, and a largely laissez-faire approach to social welfare—created a breeding ground for such squalor.

II. The Physical Reality of the Jago Overcrowding was endemic, with multiple families often crammed into single, squalid rooms. These insalubrious conditions fostered a breeding ground for disease, with cholera, typhoid, and other infectious ailments rampant. The architectural decay was appalling; crumbling tenements and dilapidated structures were the norm, lacking basic amenities like running water and sanitation. This lack of access to clean water exacerbated the spread of disease, creating a vicious cycle of illness and death. The pervasive stench of decay and the omnipresent threat of disease cast a pall over daily life.

III. The Social Fabric of the Jago Poverty wasn't merely a matter of financial deprivation; it was a systemic issue, perpetuating itself across generations through intergenerational trauma. A criminal underbelly thrived, fueled by desperation and lack of opportunity. Gangs, theft, and violence were commonplace occurrences; indeed, a normalized aspect of everyday life. Yet, within this seemingly

chaotic environment, a complex social hierarchy existed, marked by informal power structures and community dynamics. This seemingly hopeless reality fostered an astonishing resilience: Jago's inhabitants demonstrated remarkable adaptability and resourcefulness, eking out a living through a complex network of informal economies and mutual support. **IV. The Childhood Experience** For a child in the Jago, early exposure to violence and crime was a harrowing normality. Childhood, as we understand it, was largely absent; they were often thrust into adult roles and responsibilities far too early. Malnutrition was ubiquitous, resulting in stunted growth and development. Formal education was a luxury few could afford, further limiting their opportunities. Child labor was rampant, exploiting children for their cheap labor in factories, workshops, and even the criminal underworld. **V. Escape and Hope** Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles, glimpses of hope did exist. Philanthropic efforts and social reformers, though limited in scope, attempted to alleviate the suffering. Education, though often scarce and hard to obtain, emerged as a potent tool for social mobility for a fortunate few. Many individual stories illustrate the extraordinary resilience of children who managed to escape the clutches of poverty, finding success elsewhere. Migration, both within and outside of Britain, offered a desperate pathway towards a better life. The long-term consequences of a Jago upbringing were profound, often impacting generations through inherited trauma and limited opportunities. **VI. Conclusion: A Legacy of Perseverance** The Jago's story holds enduring significance as a poignant testament to the devastating consequences of unchecked societal inequality. It serves as a stark reminder of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity, emphasizing the vital need for social justice. Even today, echoes of the Jago can be found in modern parallels—underscoring the persistent challenges of poverty and its debilitating impact on vulnerable populations worldwide, serving as a cautionary tale and a call for ongoing societal reform.

A Child of the Jago: Unpacking the Raw Beauty and Brutality of Arthur Machen's Unsettling World

Arthur Machen. The name itself conjures images of mist-shrouded Welsh hills, ancient pagan rituals, and a creeping sense of unease that burrows deep into the reader's psyche. For many, his novella, 'A Child of the Jago', stands as a particularly potent and disturbing distillation of his unique brand of supernatural horror. It's a story that doesn't just scare you; it stains you. It plunges you headfirst into a world where the veil between the mundane and the monstrous is paper-thin, and where ancient evils still hold sway in the grimy alleys of London. If you're new to Machen, or perhaps have only dipped your toes into his more famous works like 'The Great God Pan' or 'The White People', 'A Child of the Jago' offers a compelling, albeit challenging, entry point. It's a visceral experience, a dive into the heart of darkness, and a stark reminder of the primitive forces that lurk beneath the veneer of civilization. So, buckle up, because we're about to explore the unsettling allure of this remarkable, and often terrifying, tale.

What is 'A Child of the Jago' All About?

At its core, 'A Child of the Jago' is a story of a young boy, Richard Vaughan, who is discovered and taken in by the wealthy and philanthropic Mr. Gidney. Vaughan hails from a dire, impoverished slum known as "the Jago," a place characterized by extreme squalor, violence, and a kind of primal, almost animalistic existence. Gidney, with the best intentions, attempts to "civilize" Vaughan, exposing him to education, proper living, and a world far removed from the brutal realities of his origins. However, the Jago isn't easily shaken off. Its influence, its essence, lingers within Vaughan. The novella explores the

terrifying consequences of this upbringing, the indelible mark of the Jago upon his soul, and the unsettling realization that some things are not so easily washed away by soap and scripture. It's a tale that delves into themes of nature versus nurture, the persistence of primal instincts, and the insidious power of place.

The Jago: A Character in Itself

You can't talk about 'A Child of the Jago' without talking about the Jago itself. Machen doesn't just describe it; he imbues it with a living, breathing malevolence. It's a labyrinth of filth and despair, a breeding ground for vice and desperation. The inhabitants are depicted with a raw, almost subhuman quality, living lives driven by instinct and immediate gratification. Machen's prose here is unflinching, a stark portrayal of a society that has, in many ways, reverted to a more primitive state. The Jago is more than just a setting; it's a force. It's a primal energy, a kind of spiritual pollution that seeps into the very fabric of its inhabitants. When Vaughan is removed from this environment, he carries a piece of the Jago with him. It's not just a memory; it's a part of his being, a latent power that waits to be awakened. This is where Machen's genius truly shines – in his ability to make a place feel like a sentient entity, a dark heart beating within the city.

Richard Vaughan: The Boy Caught Between Worlds

Richard Vaughan is the tragic fulcrum of the story. He's a fascinating character, a blank slate upon whom Gidney tries to paint a picture of civility. Yet, beneath the surface, the raw clay of the Jago remains. Vaughan's internal struggles are at the heart of the horror. He experiences the allure of his former life, the raw freedom and power that it represented, juxtaposed with the constraints and expectations of his new world. As the story progresses, we see glimpses of the Jago reasserting itself. Vaughan's instincts are not entirely suppressed. He exhibits a strange, unsettling knowledge and a power that baffles those around him. Is he a victim of his past, or is there something more ancient and potent within him? Machen leaves this tantalizingly ambiguous, forcing the reader to confront the terrifying possibility that the "civilized" world is merely a thin veneer over a deeper, more primal reality.

Machen's Masterful Prose: Evoking Atmosphere and Dread

One of Machen's greatest strengths is his prose. He possesses a unique ability to evoke atmosphere and dread with seemingly simple, yet exquisitely chosen, words. In 'A Child of the Jago', he paints vivid pictures of both the suffocating squalor of the Jago and the unsettling strangeness that Vaughan brings with him. His descriptions are often sensory, drawing the reader into the world of the story, making them feel the grit, smell the decay, and sense the palpable unease. He's a master of suggestion, hinting at horrors rather than explicitly detailing them. This is far more effective, allowing the reader's imagination to fill in the terrifying blanks. The supernatural elements in Machen's work rarely manifest as jump scares or overt monsters. Instead, they are a creeping dread, a sense that something is fundamentally **wrong**, a disruption of the natural order that leaves the reader feeling deeply unsettled. This careful crafting of language is what elevates 'A Child of the Jago' beyond a mere horror story into a work of genuine literary merit.

The Supernatural Element: A Primal Awakening?

The supernatural in 'A Child of the Jago' is not about ghosts in the traditional sense. It's about

something far older, far more primal. It's about the resurgence of ancient, forgotten forces. Vaughan's experiences suggest a connection to something pagan, something rooted in the earth and in the darker aspects of human nature. His uncanny abilities and his unsettling aura are manifestations of this deeper, more ancient power. Machen was deeply interested in folklore, mythology, and occultism, and these influences are evident throughout his work. 'A Child of the Jago' taps into a primal fear, the fear of what lies beyond our understanding, the fear of the wildness that we try so hard to suppress. The story suggests that this wildness is not easily tamed, and that in certain individuals, it can emerge with terrifying potency. It's a subtle horror, one that plays on our deep-seated anxieties about the unknown and the primitive.

Themes Explored: More Than Just a Spooky Tale

While 'A Child of the Jago' is undeniably a horror novella, it's also a profound exploration of deeper themes.

Nature vs. Nurture: The Unyielding Influence of Origins

This is perhaps the most prominent theme. Can a child truly escape the influence of their upbringing, especially when that upbringing is as extreme as Vaughan's? Machen suggests that the foundational experiences of childhood, particularly in a place as potent as the Jago, leave an indelible mark. Gidney's efforts, while well-intentioned, ultimately fail to completely erase Vaughan's origins. This raises questions about the limits of education and societal intervention when faced with deeply ingrained primal influences.

Civilization and the Primitive: The Thin Veil of Modernity

Machen often questioned the perceived superiority of so-called civilized society. In 'A Child of the Jago', he presents a stark contrast between the perceived order of the upper classes and the raw, unfiltered existence of the Jago dwellers. The novella implicitly asks: is civilization truly an advancement, or is it merely a fragile construct that suppresses something more fundamental and perhaps more authentic? Vaughan's experiences hint that the "civilized" world can be just as brutal, albeit in different ways.

The Power of Place and Environment

The Jago is a character in its own right, exerting a powerful influence on its inhabitants. Machen believed that certain locations held a spiritual resonance, and that this resonance could deeply affect individuals. The Jago, with its palpable aura of despair and primal energy, serves as a perfect example of this. Vaughan's very being seems imbued with the essence of the Jago, a testament to the profound connection between a person and their environment.

The Nature of Evil: Innate or Acquired?

Machen's work often blurs the lines between what we consider evil and what is simply a manifestation of older, perhaps amoral, forces. Is Vaughan inherently "bad" because of his Jago upbringing, or is he merely a conduit for something that predates human morality? The novella leans towards the latter, suggesting that the darkness is not necessarily an acquired vice but an inherent quality that can be awakened or expressed.

Why 'A Child of the Jago' Still Resonates Today

In a world saturated with jump scares and graphic violence, Machen's 'A Child of the Jago' offers something different, something more enduring. It's a story that lingers, that prompts introspection, and that taps into a fundamental human fear of the unknown and the primal. Its power lies in its subtlety, its atmosphere, and its profound exploration of the darker aspects of the human psyche. If you're looking for a story that will get under your skin, that will make you question the nature of civilization, and that will leave you with a lingering sense of unease, then 'A Child of the Jago' is an absolute must-read. It's a testament to Arthur Machen's enduring legacy as one of the masters of supernatural horror and a writer who dared to look into the abyss and report back what he saw. It's a raw, brutal, and beautiful glimpse into a world where the ancient echoes of the Jago still whisper.

The Enduring Legacy of a Child of the Jago

The phrase “a child of the jago” evokes a rich, evocative image—one rooted in cultural storytelling, ancestral identity, and the deep connections between family lineage and shared heritage. Though the term may not be widely recognized in mainstream discourse, its resonance lies in the symbolic power it carries: a child born not just into a bloodline, but into a narrative shaped by resilience, tradition, and the echoes of a storied past. This article explores the deeper meaning behind the expression, offering insight into its cultural significance, emotional weight, and its evolving relevance in modern contexts.

Origins and Cultural Roots

To understand “a child of the jago,” one must first consider the cultural soil in which the phrase takes root. While “jago” may vary in interpretation across regions—sometimes linked to ancestral roots, regional dialects, or historical figures—it often symbolizes a foundational figure or archetype within a community's collective memory. In many oral traditions, “the jago” represents a wise or formidable ancestor whose values, struggles, and triumphs become the moral compass for future generations. A child of the jago, therefore, is not merely an offspring but a living heir—bearing the legacy of courage, wisdom, and perseverance passed down through time. This lineage fosters a profound sense of belonging, grounding the individual in a narrative that transcends personal experience.

Such identity is not confined to a single culture, yet in many indigenous and closely-knit communities, the concept reflects a deep respect for heritage. The child of the jago becomes a bridge between past and present, embodying both the weight of history and the promise of continuity. Their upbringing is often infused with stories, rituals, and teachings that reinforce this bond, nurturing a mindset rooted in responsibility and pride in their origins. This connection shapes worldview, instilling values that influence choices, relationships, and community engagement.

Personal Identity and Emotional Resonance

Beyond cultural symbolism, the identity of a child of the jago carries profound personal meaning. For many, it fosters a unique sense of self—one informed by a deeper understanding of where they come from. This awareness often translates into heightened self-awareness, as the individual navigates their personal journey within the framework of ancestral influence. It encourages reflection on inherited strengths and the challenges carried by those who came before, creating a nuanced sense of purpose.

Emotionally, this identity can be both empowering and complex. On one hand, it offers a powerful

anchor—a source of strength during times of uncertainty. Knowing one’s roots provides comfort and clarity, reinforcing the belief that personal struggles are part of a larger, meaningful narrative. On the other hand, it may also invite questions about authenticity and expectation: How does one honor tradition without being defined by it? How does one carve an individual path while remaining connected to collective memory? These reflections contribute to a mature, thoughtful character—someone who embraces their heritage with intention, rather than passive inheritance.

Applications in Modern Society

In contemporary society, the concept of a child of the jago finds relevance across education, cultural preservation, and social leadership. Schools and community programs increasingly recognize the value of heritage education, integrating ancestral storytelling into curricula to strengthen identity and pride. By framing young people as “children of the jago,” educators foster resilience and cultural continuity in a rapidly globalizing world. This approach not only preserves endangered traditions but also equips youth with a strong foundation to engage thoughtfully with modern challenges.

Moreover, in fields such as arts, activism, and community development, those shaped by this identity often emerge as authentic voices—championing causes tied to cultural justice, historical remembrance, and inclusive representation. Their unique perspective, rooted in ancestral wisdom yet expressed through contemporary channels, enriches public discourse and builds bridges across generations. Whether through storytelling, advocacy, or creative expression, the child of the jago becomes a meaningful force in shaping inclusive, rooted communities.

Benefits and Long-Term Impact

The benefits of embracing such a legacy are far-reaching. Emotionally, it nurtures resilience, self-worth, and a grounded sense of purpose. Culturally, it strengthens community cohesion by reinforcing shared values and collective memory. Socially, it cultivates leaders who lead with authenticity, empathy, and a deep respect for context. Over time, this fosters more meaningful relationships—both within families and across broader social networks—based on mutual understanding and shared heritage.

Perhaps most significantly, identifying as a child of the jago encourages a forward-looking mindset: honoring the past not as a constraint, but as a compass. It inspires individuals to carry forward wisdom with intention, adapting timeless values to new circumstances. In doing so, they become vital stewards of culture, ensuring that ancestral legacies remain vibrant, relevant, and alive in the lives of future generations.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, the concept of a child of the jago is poised to grow in significance as societies increasingly seek connection, meaning, and authenticity. In an era where identity is often fragmented by digital noise and rapid change, the call to roots offers a stabilizing force. As digital storytelling, genealogy, and heritage preservation technologies advance, more individuals will discover and articulate their lineage with greater clarity and pride.

Educators, cultural leaders, and storytellers will play a crucial role in amplifying these narratives, creating spaces where such identities can be explored and celebrated. The future holds promise for deeper intergenerational dialogue, where the child of the jago is not only remembered but actively shaped as a living thread in the ongoing tapestry of human experience. Embracing this legacy means embracing continuity, purpose, and the enduring power of heritage—an invitation to live fully rooted in

history, yet reaching boldly toward tomorrow.

Unearthing the Soul of a Jago: A Deep Dive into the Life and Legacy of a Child of the Streets

The term "child of the jago" conjures vivid imagery: the gritty, vibrant tapestry of urban underbellies, the resilience forged in the crucible of survival, and the often-unseen stories that shape our societies. More than just a label, it represents a distinct socio-cultural phenomenon, a unique upbringing that molds individuals with a particular set of skills, perspectives, and often, a deep-seated understanding of the human condition. This article will delve into the multifaceted world of a "child of the jago," exploring their origins, characteristics, challenges, and the profound impact they have had on the cultural landscape. We will unpack the nuances of this term, moving beyond simplistic stereotypes to understand the complex realities and enduring spirit of those who call the "jago" home.

The Genesis of the 'Jago': Defining the Urban Labyrinth

The "jago," a term often associated with the rougher, more densely populated, and sometimes less regulated parts of a city, isn't merely a physical space. It's a micro-ecosystem, a breeding ground for distinct subcultures and social dynamics. Historically, these areas have often been characterized by poverty, limited access to formal education and resources, and a strong sense of community, albeit one built on informal networks and mutual reliance. The "jago" can manifest in various forms: crowded tenements, bustling marketplaces, or even the labyrinthine alleyways of ancient cities. These environments, while presenting significant challenges, also foster a unique form of social capital. Children growing up in such settings learn to navigate complex social hierarchies, develop keen observational skills, and become adept at problem-solving in real-time. They are often thrust into a world where immediate needs and tangible realities take precedence, shaping a pragmatic and adaptable mindset. Understanding the "jago" as a socio-geographic and cultural construct is the first step to appreciating the lives of its inhabitants.

The 'Child of the Jago': Traits Forged in the Crucible of Survival

A "child of the jago" is not defined by a singular characteristic, but rather a constellation of traits honed by their environment. Foremost among these is an indomitable spirit of resilience. Survival in the "jago" often means facing advers dimensions of hardship – from economic scarcity to social marginalization. This constant negotiation with adversity breeds a toughness, a capacity to bounce back from setbacks, and an unwavering determination to persevere. Furthermore, these children often possess remarkable street smarts. This encompasses a deep understanding of human psychology, the ability to read situations and intentions quickly, and a knack for finding opportunities where others see only obstacles. This street intelligence is not acquired through formal schooling but through lived experience, observation, and often, mentorship from older members of the community. It's a practical, intuitive wisdom that proves invaluable in navigating the complexities of urban life. Another defining characteristic is a strong sense of community and belonging. Despite the harsh realities, the "jago" often fosters a powerful collective identity. Children grow up within close-knit networks, where neighbors look out for each other and a shared experience creates unbreakable bonds. This sense of solidarity can be a vital support system, offering emotional and practical assistance in times of need. Loyalty to the "jago" and its people is often a deeply ingrained value.

Navigating the Shadows: Challenges Faced by Children of the Jago

The resilience and resourcefulness of a "child of the jago" are often born out of necessity, as they face a gauntlet of challenges that can significantly impact their development and future prospects. One of the most pervasive is limited access to quality education. Schools in "jago" areas may be underfunded, overcrowded, and lack adequate resources, creating an unequal playing field. This educational disparity can perpetuate cycles of poverty, hindering upward mobility. Economic instability is another significant hurdle. Many families in "jago" communities live in precarious financial situations, with parents often engaged in informal or precarious labor. This can lead to food insecurity, lack of adequate housing, and limited access to healthcare, all of which can profoundly affect a child's well-being and development. The constant struggle for basic necessities can cast a long shadow over childhood. Social stigma and prejudice are also considerable challenges. Children from "jago" areas may face discrimination and negative stereotyping from those outside their communities. This can lead to feelings of shame, isolation, and a sense of being misunderstood, impacting their self-esteem and opportunities. The perception of these areas as inherently dangerous or problematic can unfairly label its inhabitants. Furthermore, exposure to crime and violence, while not universal, can be a reality for some children growing up in certain "jago" environments. This can have profound psychological impacts, leading to trauma, anxiety, and a heightened sense of vigilance. The constant presence of such risks demands a level of emotional fortitude that no child should have to possess.

The Cultural Footprint: Art, Music, and the Unseen Narratives

Despite the obstacles, children of the "jago" have consistently enriched the cultural landscape in profound and lasting ways. Their experiences, struggles, and triumphs often find expression in vibrant art forms, from music and poetry to street art and storytelling. These creative outlets serve as powerful vehicles for reclaiming narratives, challenging stereotypes, and fostering a sense of pride and identity. The raw energy and authentic voice of "jago" culture have influenced mainstream music genres, introducing new sounds, rhythms, and lyrical themes. Hip-hop, in particular, has deep roots in urban communities and often reflects the realities of life in the "jago." Similarly, visual arts emerging from these areas can be striking and thought-provoking, using readily available materials and urban landscapes as their canvas. Moreover, the storytelling traditions within "jago" communities are a rich repository of wisdom, history, and cultural heritage. These narratives, passed down through generations, offer invaluable insights into the resilience and ingenuity of the people. They provide a counter-narrative to dominant societal perspectives, celebrating the unique strengths and contributions of those who have often been marginalized. The influence extends beyond artistic expression, shaping urban planning, community development initiatives, and even social activism. The lived experiences of "children of the jago" provide critical perspectives that are essential for creating more inclusive and equitable cities.

Breaking the Cycle: Pathways to Empowerment and Opportunity

Recognizing the inherent potential within every "child of the jago" is paramount to fostering positive change. Addressing the systemic issues that perpetuate disadvantage is crucial. This includes investing in education, creating accessible vocational training programs, and providing robust social support systems. Early childhood intervention programs can play a vital role in leveling the playing field and equipping children with the foundational skills they need to succeed. Economic empowerment initiatives are also key. Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurship within "jago" communities

can create sustainable employment opportunities and foster economic self-sufficiency. Microfinance, skill development workshops, and access to capital can help individuals transform their ideas into viable enterprises. Furthermore, challenging the negative stereotypes and prejudices associated with "jago" communities is essential. Promoting positive media representation, fostering inter-community dialogue, and creating platforms for the voices of "children of the jago" to be heard can help dismantle misconceptions and foster greater understanding and acceptance. Investing in safe, supportive community spaces – youth centers, cultural hubs, and recreational facilities – can provide crucial outlets for growth, creativity, and positive social interaction. These spaces can offer mentorship, guidance, and a sense of belonging, nurturing the talents and aspirations of young people.

The Enduring Spirit: A Testament to Human Fortitude

The "child of the jago" is more than a product of their environment; they are a testament to the enduring spirit of human resilience, adaptability, and creativity. Their lives, though often marked by hardship, are rich with stories of courage, community, and an unwavering will to thrive. Understanding their experiences not only enriches our understanding of urban life but also compels us to address the systemic inequalities that create such disparities. By recognizing their contributions and fostering an environment of opportunity, we can ensure that the vibrant spirit of the "jago" continues to shape our world for the better. The journey of a child from the jago is a powerful reminder of the diverse tapestry of human experience and the boundless potential that resides within every individual, regardless of their origins.

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Questions & Answers About a child of the jago

No	Question	Answer
1	What exactly is a 'Jago' and what does it mean for a child to be 'of the Jago'?	A 'Jago' refers to the community, the tribe, or the specific group of people to which someone belongs, often in a gritty, urban setting. Being 'of the Jago' means that a child is deeply embedded in this community's life, culture, and often its struggles and rules.
2	What are the key themes explored in stories about children of the Jago?	Key themes often include survival, resilience, loyalty to the community, the loss of innocence, navigating harsh environments, finding identity within a group, and the impact of poverty and social marginalization on young lives.
3	How does the environment of the Jago shape the experiences of its children?	The environment, typically depicted as tough and unforgiving (like favelas or inner-city slums), shapes children by forcing them to mature quickly, develop street smarts, and learn to rely on their community for protection and support. It can also expose them to danger and limited opportunities.
4	Are there common character archetypes found among children of the Jago in fiction?	Yes, common archetypes include the resourceful survivor, the innocent caught in the crossfire, the loyal friend, the rebellious youth, and sometimes the budding leader who seeks to change their circumstances or protect their own.

5	What makes stories about 'children of the Jago' so compelling to audiences?	These stories are compelling because they offer raw, authentic portrayals of human resilience against adversity. They highlight the strength of community bonds and the universal struggle for a better life, often told from a perspective rarely seen in mainstream narratives.
6	How do authors typically portray the sense of belonging or isolation for a child of the Jago?	Authors often show a complex duality: intense belonging and loyalty within the Jago, creating a powerful sense of 'us against the world'. Simultaneously, there's a profound sense of isolation from mainstream society, often highlighting the 'otherness' and the barriers that prevent integration.

child of the jago lore, jago heritage and legacy, descendant of the jago lineage, jago cultural roots child, jago ancestral heritage guide, jago child identity exploration, jago myth and child symbolism, jago family legacy and tradition, jago heritage child narrative, jago bloodline and upbringing

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Conclusion

Digital reading improves access to information.

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