The objective of this research is to know the effectiveness of Contextual Teaching Learning (CTL) approach in teaching reading to the first year students of SMP N Petarukan during the second semester in the academic year of 2007/2008.

The hypothesis of this research is as follows: CTL Approach gives positive effect toward a better achievement in the teaching reading. In other words the students who are taught with CTL approach will get the reading achievement better than those who are taught without CTL approach.

The population of this research is the first year students of SMP N 1 Petarukan Pemalang; the total number of the students is 320. The writer chose two similar groups with equivalent in ability. The number of the sample is eighty students. The samples consisted of two groups; the experimental group and control group and each group contain 40 students. The experimental group consisted of students who were taught with CTL Approach and the control group consisted of the students who were taught without CTL Approach.

The writer chooses a multiple choices reading test as the instrument of the research. The test took 90 minutes to do. The test consists of multiple choices with four options A, B, C and D. To know the validity and the reliability of the instrument, the writer had tried out the instrument to forty students having the same competence as the samples of the study.

The data of this research were gained from the result of the pretest and posttest done by sample of this research during the second semester. Data were tested by using t-test. The result of data analysis using t-test is 3.82 whereas t-table with the degree of freedom are (78) on the level of significance of 5% t-table is 1.96. It proves that t-ratio is higher than t-table (3.82>1.96). It means that there is a significant difference in achievement of reading between the students who have not taught CTL Approach and those who have not been taught CTL Approach.

Thus the conclusion of this research is **“CTL Approach gives positive effects on students’ reading achievement at the first year students in second semester of SMP N 1 Petarukan Pemalang, in the academic year 2007/2008.”**