

The Reading Activity Inventory (RAI)

The RAI (Guthrie, McGough, & Wigfield, 1994) is a measure of the breadth and frequency of students' reading. Questions on the RAI ask students whether they read during the last week different kinds of reading material both in and out of school (e.g., different kinds of books, newspapers, comics, as well as books in general). If the child says he or she read a given kind of book in the last week, he or she then is asked to give its title. The child then is asked to indicate how often he or she reads that kind of book, responding on a 1 to 4 scale *from almost never to almost every day*.

The RAI was administered directly after the MRQ, by the same administrators. A shortened version was used in this study, asking children about the following kinds of reading materials: comics, magazines, newspapers, books, mystery books, sports books, adventure books, and nature books. The children were told that they were going to answer some questions about what they read and how often they read for fun. They did one practice question, and then completed the RAI. It took children 5 to 10 minutes to complete the RAI. To gauge the breadth of children's book reading for fun, we created a composite scale of the five items asking about book reading (books, mystery books, sports books, adventure books, and nature books). Although there is no traditional reliability for this measure, the fall and spring administrations of the measure correlated .54 ($p < .001$), suggesting a substantial level of stability in the measure.

To see the entire journal article: (can be downloaded from the CORI Web site)

Wigfield, A., & Guthrie, J. T. (1997). Relations of children's motivation for reading to the amount and breadth of their reading. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 89, 420-432.

Name: _____ Date: _____

READING ACTIVITY INVENTORY

Directions: We are interested in knowing about your reading activities and in finding out how much you read different kinds of books. You will circle the answers to some of the questions, and write the answers to the others.

Practice Question

1. Do you have a first name? (Circle only one)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write your first name.

First name: _____

2. How often do you tell another person your first name? (Circle only one)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4

Questions About Reading For Your Own Enjoyment

Directions: In this section, think about books that you read for your own interest that are not assigned for school or homework.

1. Did you read a story book like a mystery or an adventure last week for your own interest? (Circle only one)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write in the title, author, or the specific topic that you read about.

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Topic: _____

2. How often do you read a story book like a mystery or an adventure for your own interest? (Circle only one)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4

3. Did you read a sports book last week for your own interest? (Circle only one.)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write in the title, author, or the specific topic that you read about.

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Topic: _____

4. How often do you read sports books for your own interest? (Circle only one.)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4

5. Did you read a science book last week for your own interest? (Circle only one.)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write in the title, author, or the specific topic that you read about.

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Topic: _____

6. How often do you read a science book for your own interest? (Circle only one.)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4

7. Did you read a comic book or magazine last week for your own interest? (Circle only one.)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write in the title, author, or the specific topic that you read about.

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Topic: _____

8. How often do you read comic books and magazines for your own interest? (Circle only one)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4

9. Did you read any other kind of book last week for your own interest that was not mentioned? (Circle only one)

No..... 1

Yes..... 2

If yes, write in the title, author, or the specific topic that you read about.

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Topic: _____

10. How often do you read this kind of book? (Circle only one)

Almost never..... 1

About once a month..... 2

About once a week..... 3

Almost every day..... 4