



Reading

Student Background Questionnaire

2003
Grade 8

SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 15 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

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- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

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- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 3

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?
- VB331333
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?
- VB331334
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

5. About how many books are there in your home?
- VB331335
- Ⓐ Few (0-10)
 - Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)
 - Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)
 - Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?
- VB331336
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.
- VB331337
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

8. Is there a world atlas in your home? It could be a book of maps of the world, or it could be on the computer.
- VB331338
- Ⓐ Yes
 - Ⓑ No
 - Ⓒ I don't know.

9. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?
- TB001101
- Ⓐ 5 or fewer
 - Ⓑ 6-10
 - Ⓒ 11-15
 - Ⓓ 16-20
 - Ⓔ More than 20



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10. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day

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11. On a school day, about how many hours do you usually watch TV or videotapes outside of school?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 hour or less
- Ⓒ 2 or 3 hours
- Ⓓ 4 or 5 hours
- Ⓔ 6 hours or more

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12. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

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13. How far in school did your mother go?

- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ She graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB330871

14. How far in school did your father go?

- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ He graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB331451

15. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
- Ⓓ All or most of the time



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section is about reading and writing. The section has 10 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

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1. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about reading and writing. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	
a. When I read books, I learn a lot.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB345623
b. Reading is one of my favorite activities.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB345624
c. Writing things like stories or letters is one of my favorite activities.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB345625
d. Writing helps me share my ideas.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB345626

VB379288

2. How often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. Read for fun on your own time	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB379289
b. Talk with your friends or family about something you have read	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB379290
c. Write in a private diary or journal on your own time	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB379291
d. Write stories or poems for fun on your own time	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB379292
e. Write e-mails to your friends or family	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VB379293

Section 4

VB345628

3. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **fiction**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Comic books or joke books	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345629
b. Fiction books or stories (books or stories about imagined events)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345630
c. Plays	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345631
d. Poems	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345632

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4. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **non-fiction**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Biographies or autobiographies	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345658
b. Books about science (for example, nature, animals, astronomy)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345659
c. Books about technology (for example, machines, computers)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345660
d. Books about other countries	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345661
e. Books about history	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345662
f. Other non-fiction books	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB345664



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5. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of **articles or stories**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Articles or stories in a newspaper	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345641
b. Articles or stories in a magazine	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345642
c. Articles or stories on the Internet	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345643

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6. Now think about reading and writing you do for school. For your **English** class this year, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	
a. Have a class discussion about something that the whole class has read	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345645
b. Work in pairs or small groups to talk about something that you have read	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345646
c. Write in a journal about something that you have read for English class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB345647

Section 4

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7. For your **English** class so far this year, how many times have you done each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	Once	2 or 3 times	4 or 5 times	6 or more times	
a. Written a report or paper about something that you have read (for example, a book report)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345649
b. Made a presentation to the class about something that you have read	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345650
c. Done a project about something that you have read (for example, written a play, created a web site)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345651

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8. Think about the classes that you are taking this year. How often do you read something that is **NOT** a textbook for each of the following classes? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week	I don't take this class	
a. English class (for example, plays, fiction books)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345653
b. Science class (for example, science magazines, biographies of scientists)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345654
c. Social studies or history class (for example, books about people who lived a long time ago, real letters written a long time ago)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345655
d. Math class (for example, math word-games)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB345656



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9. For school this year, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions on tests or assignments that involved reading?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once or twice this year
- Ⓒ Once or twice a month
- Ⓓ At least once a week

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10. When you have reading assignments in school, how often does your teacher do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. Ask you to explain or support your understanding of what you have read	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB429521
b. Ask you to discuss different interpretations of what you have read	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VB429582

