



Reading

Student Background Questionnaire

2005
Grade 8

SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

VB331330

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

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

VB331331

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

- (A) White
- (B) Black or African American
- (C) Asian
- (D) American Indian or Alaska Native
- (E) 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
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335
- (A) Few (0–10)
- (B) Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- (C) Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- (D) Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)
6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101
- (A) 5 or fewer
- (B) 6–10
- (C) 11–15
- (D) 16–20
- (E) More than 20
9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339
- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) Once every few weeks
- (C) About once a week
- (D) Two or three times a week
- (E) Every day



VB331447

10. 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

VB330870

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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 has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB345622

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

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

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	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345629
b. Fiction books or stories (books or stories about imagined events)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345630
c. Plays	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345631
d. Poems	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345632

VB345657

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	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345658
b. Books about science (for example, nature, animals, astronomy)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345659
c. Books about technology (for example, machines, computers)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345660
d. Books about other countries	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345661
e. Books about history	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345662
f. Other non-fiction books	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345664

VB345640

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

VB345644

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

VB345648

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) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345649 |
| b. Made a presentation to the class about something that you have read | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345650 |
| c. Done a project about something that you have read (for example, written a play, created a web site) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345651 |

VB345652

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) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345653 |
| b. Science class (for example, science magazines, biographies of scientists) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | 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) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345655 |
| d. Math class (for example, math word-games) | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | VB345656 |

VB345715

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

VB429520

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 |

VB595182

11. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

Section 4

VB595183

12. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

VB595184

13. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

