



Reading Student Background Questionnaire

2009
Grade 8

DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Never or hardly ever | Once or twice a month | Once or twice a week | Almost every day |
| 1. How often do you watch movies on TV? | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D |

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

Example 2

| |
|--|
| 2. Which event would you prefer to attend? |
| <input type="radio"/> A basketball game |
| <input type="radio"/> B car show |
| <input type="radio"/> C concert |
| <input type="radio"/> D play |

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



SECTION 4

Section 4

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**.

- Ⓐ 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.

VB331331

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

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

Section 4

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

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

VB345622

- | | 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 |

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

VB379288

- | | 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 |

3. 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.

VB345644

- | | 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 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | VB345645 |
| b. Work in pairs or small groups to talk about something that you have read | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | VB345646 |

VB345648

4. 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. Made a presentation to the class about something that you have read | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | <input type="radio"/> (C) | <input type="radio"/> (D) | <input type="radio"/> (E) | VB345650 |
| b. Done a project about something that you have read (for example, written a play, created a website) | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | <input type="radio"/> (C) | <input type="radio"/> (D) | <input type="radio"/> (E) | VB345651 |

5. How often do you use either the school library or the public library to get information for a school project or homework?

VC503833

- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) Once or twice a month
- (C) Once or twice a week
- (D) Every day or almost every day

7. Do you study or do work for English/ language arts at an after-school or tutoring program?

VC503875

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

6. How often do you use either the school library or the public library to get information for your own use?

VC503834

- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) Once or twice a month
- (C) Once or twice a week
- (D) Every day or almost every day

8. In your school, do you participate in extracurricular activities such as book clubs, competitions, fairs, or exhibits for reading?

VC504012

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

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

VB345715

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

VC504013

10. In your English/language arts class this year, how often does your class 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 | Every day or almost every day | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| a. Read aloud | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504014 |
| b. Read silently | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504015 |
| c. Discuss new or difficult vocabulary | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504016 |
| d. Explain what we have read | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504017 |
| e. Do a group activity or project about what we have read | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504018 |
| f. Read books we have chosen ourselves | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504019 |
| g. Write something about what we have read | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504020 |
| h. Discuss different interpretations of what we have read | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504021 |

VC504022

11. In your English/language arts class this year, when reading a story, article, or other passage, how often does your teacher ask you to do the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

| | Never or hardly ever | Once or twice a month | Once or twice a week | Every day or almost every day | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| a. Summarize the passage | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504023 |
| b. Interpret the meaning of the passage | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504024 |
| c. Question the motives or feelings of the characters | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504025 |
| d. Identify the main themes of the passage | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504026 |

VC504027

12. In your English/language arts class this year, how often do you use a computer to 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 | Every day or almost every day | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| a. Learn and practice vocabulary | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504028 |
| b. Practice spelling and grammar | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504029 |
| c. Write stories or reports | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504030 |
| d. Produce multimedia reports/projects | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504031 |
| e. Read books on the computer | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504032 |
| f. Access reading-related websites (for example, websites with book reviews and lists of recommended books) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504033 |
| g. Conduct research for reading and writing projects | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504034 |
| h. Correspond with students from other schools using e-mail | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | VC504035 |

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

VB595182

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

14. 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?

VC034559

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

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

VB595184

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

