

Favourite Book

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Enjoyment of reading.

Resources: Sheet of photographs.

Questions/instructions:

Show the student the photo page.



Here are some pictures showing children enjoying reading books. In this activity I'm interested in hearing you tell me about a book you've read this year. Try to think of one that you really enjoyed. When you've thought of one, let me know.

Allow time for student to think of a book. If they can't think of a book from this year, suggest they choose a book from a previous year. When student is ready, ask:

1. Can you remember the name or title of the book?

Prompt: What was the title?

	% responses	
	y4	y8
specifies title clearly	83	84
identifies series — no specific title	10	7
unclear/unsure of title	4	5
no response	3	4

2. Do you remember who wrote it?

Prompt: Who wrote it?

	% responses	
	y4	y8
named fully	27	52
surname only	1	2
unclear/ unsure	4	25
no response	68	21

3. Now think about the book and what made it really good for you to read. Explain to me why you enjoyed the book.

What made it good		% responses	
		y4	y8
genre/type		20	43
topic/content		64	77
pictures		17	6
characters		36	40
reading level		10	11
learned a lot from it		7	8
writing style		23	30

- How strongly did student communicate enjoyment?

	% responses	
	y4	y8
extremely strongly	2	3
strongly	18	35
moderately	42	44
a little	35	14
not at all	3	4

4. Did someone give you the book to read, or did you find it on your own?

Prompt: Where did you get the book from?

	% responses	
	y4	y8
home	11	10
friend	4	7
school library	32	36
classroom	17	9
community library	6	8
gift	19	15
school book club	1	1
personal purchase	5	8
Duffy's Books	4	3
don't read at all	1	3

Commentary:

This task gives an interesting picture of students' use of and response to books. Students are not very conscious of authors, particularly at year 4 level. They say they choose books mainly because of the topic/content, but also because of the characters, genre and writing style. By far the most important source is the school library, suggesting the importance of students having access to quality school library resources.