

Approach: One to one
 Focus: Comprehending literal meaning; appreciating the writer's use of language
 Resources: 6 pictures of shop signs

Questions / instructions:

Shops have all sorts of interesting signs. They usually tell us something about the shops. I'm going to show you pictures of some shop signs. As you look at each picture try to do two things: read to me the words on the sign, then tell me what you think the sign means.

Show student each picture in order from 1 to 6. Say, "Here is picture number 1 (2, 3, etc.)". Ask the two questions for each sign (below). Don't give help with reading words. Do give encouragement to try.

1. Read the words on the sign.
2. Tell me what you think the sign means.



Sign 1:

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
Read words on sign accurately:	all	90 (88)	98 (98)
	most	9 (11)	2 (2)
	few or none	1 (1)	0 (0)
Mentions:	shop is open	71 (73)	82 (81)
	sells ice-cream (Deep South brand)	72 (70)	80 (79)



Sign 2:

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
Read words on sign accurately:	all	53 (60)	81 (80)
	most	43 (37)	19 (18)
	few or none	4 (3)	0 (2)
Mentions:	shop sells Subway sandwiches/rolls	27 (21)	34 (31)
	tasty, nice to eat sandwiches	24 (28)	43 (32)
	good idea to eat Subway (healthy, good, fresh)	29 (47)	64 (65)



Sign 3:

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
Read words on sign accurately:	all	51 (54)	85 (85)
	most	45 (42)	15 (15)
	few or none	4 (4)	0 (0)
Mentions:	place to use computers (for email, internet, games)	36 (35)	68 (55)
	fast, quick computer connection	23 (24)	62 (43)

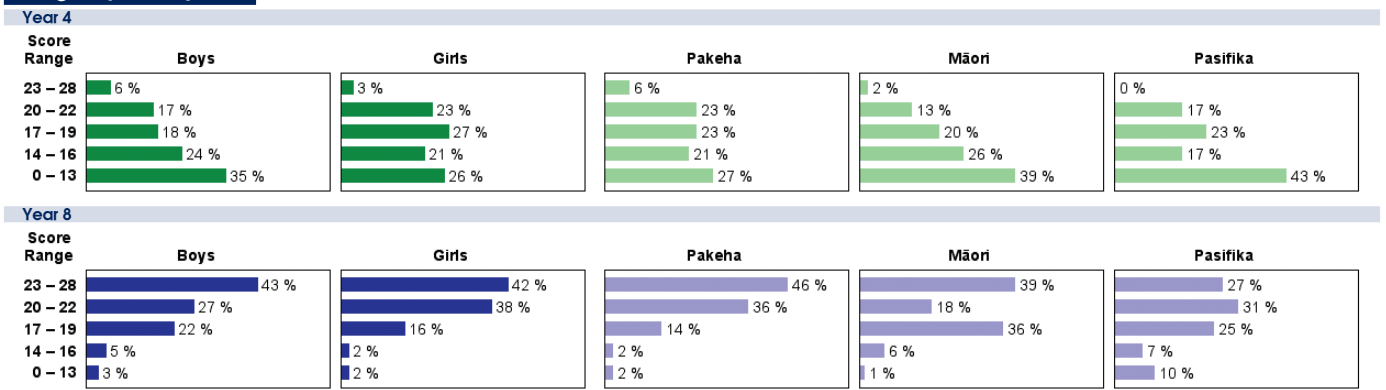


Sign 4:

		% response 2008 ('04)	
		year 4	year 8
Read words on sign accurately:	all	62 (51)	85 (93)
	all (but 'Appointment' is read as 'Appointments')	3 (6)	6 (2)
	most	27 (33)	9 (5)
	few or none	8 (10)	0 (0)
Mentions:	haircuts for men	66 (60)	78 (80)
	just walk in (no appointment)	42 (42)	90 (87)
	two people can have haircut at same time	25 (32)	31 (31)

	% response 2008 ('04)		% response 2008 ('04)	
	year 4	year 8	year 4	year 8
				
Sign 5:				
Read words on sign accurately:				
all	49 (51)	86 (87)		
most	45 (41)	14 (11)		
few or none	6 (8)	0 (2)		
Mentions: Bob buys other people's things	7 (4)	36 (45)		
				
Sign 6:				
Read words on sign accurately:				
all (including Wellington City Council)	17 (17)	51 (46)		
all (excluding Wellington City Council)	26 (22)	34 (37)		
most	53 (57)	15 (17)		
few or none	4 (4)	0 (0)		
Mentions: dogs not allowed	81 (83)	91 (93)		
place (central city) not allowed	33 (31)	61 (71)		
time not allowed (8am – 6pm) every day	35 (28)	71 (70)		
			Total score: 23–28	4 (6) 43 (36)
			20–22	20 (15) 32 (36)
			17–19	23 (25) 19 (20)
			14–16	22 (28) 3 (8)
			0–13	31 (26) 3 (0)

Subgroup Analyses:



Commentary:

More than 40% of year 4 and at least 85% of year 8 students read all words on these signs accurately. Substantially fewer students interpreted and explained the meanings of the signs. Year 4 students performed similarly in 2004 and 2008, but year 8 students did a little better in 2008 than 2004.