

Approach: One to one

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Interest in reading

Resources: Picture

Questions / instructions:

Show picture.

These pictures show people reading books.

I'm interested in hearing you tell me about a book you have read this year.

Try to think of a book that you really enjoyed.

Think about it for a moment, and when you have thought of the book, let me know.

Allow time.



	% responses		% responses	
	y4	y8	y4	y8
1. Can you remember what the book was called – its title?				
<i>identified specific title</i>	84	85		
If student can't remember a book they have read, discontinue task.				
2. Do you remember who wrote it – the author?				
<i>PROMPT: What was the author's name?</i>				
<i>identified author (full name or surname)</i>	32	49		
3. What was the book about?				
<i>rich detailed account</i>	20	32		
<i>moderately full account</i>	38	40		
<i>sketchy account</i>	33	23		
<i>nothing useful</i>	9	5		
4. Tell me what made this a really good book for you to read – why you enjoyed reading it?				
<i>genre/type of book</i>	29	36		
<i>topic/content</i>	56	64		
<i>visual content</i>	9	3		
<i>reading level</i>	9	5		
<i>learnt a lot from it</i>	7	10		
<i>writing style</i>	11	17		
<i>good characters</i>	7	7		
How strongly did student communicate enjoyment of book?				
<i>extremely strongly</i>	7	11		
<i>strongly</i>	22	25		
<i>moderately strongly</i>	35	36		
<i>a little</i>	28	19		
<i>not at all</i>	8	9		
5. Have you read any other books by the same author?				
<i>PROMPT: Can you remember what the books were called?</i>				
<i>yes, specifying title</i>	37	34		
<i>no, not named</i>	12	13		
6. Have you read any other books that were like this one?				
<i>PROMPT: Can you remember what the books were called?</i>				
<i>yes, specifying title</i>	22	25		
<i>no, not named</i>	13	10		
Commentary:				
This task is not focused on student performance, but provides a window into student attitudes toward reading and reading experience. About 85 percent of year 4 and year 8 students identified a favourite book, but year 8 students were more aware of the author and a little better at telling what the book was about. The type of book and its content are the major factors in identifying the favourite book as a "really good book to read", but some year 8 students were also interested in the writing style. About one third of students at both year levels communicated strong enjoyment of the book when discussing it.				