

The Book and the Banknote: Reading for Leisure amongst 10th Grade Learners in South Africa

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ABSTRACT Central to this study are the researchers' interests in describing leisure reading tendencies amongst secondary school learners in the age range of 16 and 17 years old. The study collected data by means of a questionnaire which consisted of both closed and open-ended questions. The questionnaire was administered to a group of 120 tenth grade learners at two schools in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Of the number, only 33 eventually formed the sample of the study. Data were analysed using simple statistical methods, and the results are presented under the following headings: current engagement in leisure reading; time spent reading for leisure; sources of motivation; and access to reading materials. The learners' perceptions about leisure reading were also captured following open-ended questions. This study shed light about leisure habits amongst learners, an area which has gained little attention in South Africa. Further studies should be conducted using larger samples and consisting of learners from different racial background.