

Title: Quantifying Reading: Why Reading Programs in Schools Discourage Rather than Encourage Reading

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Reading programs that require students to read books, then take quizzes in order to earn points have become increasingly popular in schools. The companies behind these programs offer them as a way to get students to read and keep reading throughout life; however, in many ways these kinds of reading programs are detrimental to a student's education and discourage reading in the long run. Reading becomes seen as a chore by many students, and the lack of discussion provided by these programs does not allow students' minds to expand. Furthermore, the distorted grade levels that these reading programs give books do not allow students the freedom to read books that interest them; rather, students must read books marked as their own grade level regardless if they want to read it or not. Not only does this make students feel trapped, but it also disadvantages those students who struggle to read at their grade level. By removing these reading programs and implementing such things as reading circles and independent reading time, where students are allowed to read any books they would like, reading can become something enjoyable for many more students. Allowing students to discuss amongst their peers and friends about what they have read encourages them to read to understand a book, whereas reading programs encourage students to read only to finish a book and earn points. Giving students freedom and choice in reading makes it into something enjoyable which gives them skills that can be useful in their futures.

Works Cited

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