

Sainsbury, S., & Schagen, I. (2004). Attitudes to reading at ages nine and eleven. *Journal of Research in Reading, 27*, 373-386.

Key Words: motivation

Summary:

A survey was given to 5076 students in grades four and six to gauge their enjoyment of reading, both in and out of school. This study was conducted in order to determine how enjoyment and performance might change from grades four to six.

Assumptions:

- Recent research shows that a student's attitude about reading is a motivator for reading.
- High motivation to read and positive attitudes about reading are related to higher reading achievement and more frequent reading.

Findings:

- Overall, attitudes about reading were more positive in year four than in year six.
- When questioned in grade six, students reported less difficulty with reading than they did in grade four; however, they also reported less enjoyment.
- Students' assessments of their own reading abilities were found to be accurate.

Suggestions for Teachers:

- Find ways to gauge your students' attitudes toward reading.
- Find ways to help students develop and maintain positive attitudes.

Suggestions for Literacy Leaders:

- Help teachers see the importance of developing and maintaining positive attitudes toward reading.
- Help teachers explore the possible causes and possible solutions for decline in attitudes during adolescence.