

TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

MOTHER TONGUE (READING COMPREHENSIONS AND LITERATURE)

The answers to these questions should be recorded in section CC of the enclosed answer card. Do not answer these questions if you do not teach Mother Tongue.

All teachers are requested to indicate a response to the first twenty-seven questions even though in some cases a question may appear not to be applicable.

1. Indicate whether you primarily:
  - A. teach Literature as a separate subject.
  - B. teach Literature as part of instruction in the Mother Tongue.
  - C. teach Reading as a separate subject.
  - D. teach Reading as part of instruction in the Mother Tongue.
  - E. teach Reading and Literature as part of instruction in the Mother Tongue.

How many weeks (full-time equivalent) in-service teacher training have you received during the last 5 years in each of the following? Please include also evening courses and other short in-service courses, counting 6 hours equal to one full-time day and 5 days equal to one full-time week.

2. In Literature:
 

A. 0 weeks	B. $\leq$ 2 weeks	C. $> 2 \leq 4$ weeks
D. $> 4 \leq 9$ weeks	E. $> 9$ weeks	

3. In teaching skills of Reading:
 

A. 0 weeks	B. $\leq$ 2 weeks	C. $> 2 \leq 4$ weeks
D. $> 4 \leq 9$ weeks	E. $> 9$ weeks	

4. In Linguistics:
 

A. 0 weeks	B. $\leq$ 2 weeks	C. $> 2 \leq 4$ weeks
D. $> 4 \leq 9$ weeks	E. $> 9$ weeks	

5. In Philology:
 

A. 0 weeks	B. $\leq$ 2 weeks	C. $> 2 \leq 4$ weeks
D. $> 4 \leq 9$ weeks	E. $> 9$ weeks	

6. In other areas of humanities:
- A. 0 weeks                      B.  $\leq 2$  weeks                      C.  $> 2 \leq 4$  weeks  
 D.  $> 4 \leq 9$  weeks                      E.  $> 9$  weeks
7. Indicate whether you have any periods in which children are allowed to spend time reading materials of their own choice.
- A. Yes  
 B. No
8. Indicate how your children obtain their (Mother Tongue) textbooks.
- A. Buy their own  
 B. Loaned to them  
 C. Do not have one
9. Indicate whether each child has a dictionary exclusively for himself for use in class.
- A. Yes  
 B. No
10. Indicate whether there is a class library or bookcorner in the classroom in which you most often teach.
- A. Yes  
 B. No
11. If yes, indicate how many books there are in this class library or corner.
- A.  $\leq 10$                       B.  $> 10 \leq 20$                       C.  $> 20 \leq 50$   
 D.  $> 50 \leq 100$                       E.  $> 100$
12. If yes, indicate how many books have been added in the last year.
- A.  $\leq 10$                       B.  $> 10 \leq 20$                       C.  $> 20 \leq 30$   
 D.  $> 30 \leq 40$                       E.  $> 40$
13. Indicate in general how the textbook(s) used in your classroom were chosen.
- A. None used                      B. By you                      C. By your local colleagues  
 D. By local or central school officials

14. Indicate how many hours of instruction (initial training) you have had on methods of teaching reading:
- A. None or less than 1
  - B.  $1 \leq 10$  hours
  - C.  $> 10$  hours
15. Indicate if a standardized reading test (i.e., one which refers to children's marks to national or regional norms) has been given to all children in your class during the last twelve months.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
16. Indicate if you give any individual instruction in reading to children in your class.
- A. Yes
  - B. No
17. Indicate if you divide the class into groups for reading periods.
- A. Yes
  - B. No

- 18. Do you often ask groups of children to read aloud?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
- 19. Do you often read aloud to the children with the children just listening?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
- 20. Do you often read aloud with the children following silently in their own texts?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
- 21. Indicate whether you undertake any special work to improve the student's rate of reading.
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

Indicate whether or not you require or recommend the following kinds of books to your students.

- 22. Histories of Literature:
  - A. Require
  - B. Recommend
  - C. Neither
  
- 23. Handbooks of literary criticism:
  - A. Require
  - B. Recommend**
  - C. Neither
  
- 24. Biographies of individual authors:
  - A. Require
  - B. Recommend
  - C. Neither

(Indicate whether or not you require or recommend the following kinds of books to your students).

25. Critical essays on individual authors or works:

- A. Require
- B. Recommend
- C. Neither

26. Do you advocate that your students should (indicate one)

- A. read only those books which can be discussed in depth in class.
- B. read as many books as possible.

If you teach (Mother Tongue) Literature continue with questions 27-59  
If not, please mark response D for question 27.

27. Indicate how much teaching time you devote to modern literature (written after World War I) as opposed to earlier literature in general.

- A. Time is devoted primarily to modern literature.
- B. Time is devoted about equally between earlier and modern literature.
- C. Time is devoted primarily to earlier literature.
- D. I do not teach Mother Tongue Literature.

28. Indicate which of the following you think is closest to your aim as you teach literature.

Literary instruction should seek to:

- A. encourage the students' personal development through their talk about literature.
- B. enable the students to comprehend the complexity and beauty of individual literary works.
- C. show the students that their heritage is best preserved through great writers and their works.

29. How often do you have students improvise scenes from a literary text they are reading - either in pantomime or with words? (indicate one)

- A. Frequently
- B. Occasionally
- C. Rarely

We have interviewed numerous teachers of Literature and have asked them what questions they have found it most profitable or most important to ask in class discussions or in writing assignments. The questions, of course, differed greatly, but we found that they fell into certain groups. Below are the groups we have found. They are in general terms and would have to be modified for specified works of Literature. Please rate each of the following questions from A (trivial) to D (very important) to indicate the degree to which you think each question is important to the aims of your course in Literature.

A = trivial

B = little importance

C = some importance

D = very important

30. Is it proper for an author to write a story about such a subject?  
A B C D
31. What literary devices (metaphors, images, allusions, rhetorical devices, or other devices like dialogue or description) did you notice in the work?  
A B C D
32. Is the work symbolic or allegorical? What is its theme?  
A B C D
33. How would you describe the language (grammar, syntax, versification or diction) of this work?  
A B C D
34. How is the work related to the time in which it was written (politically, philosophically, biographically)?  
A B C D
35. What happens in the work? Who is narrating it? What is the setting?  
A B C D
36. How is the technique (the form, language, or structure) related to what the work says?  
A B C D
37. What is the structure of the work? How is it organized?  
A B C D
38. Is the work well written? Does the form support the content?  
Is it well constructed?  
A B C D

A = trivial            B = little importance            C = some importance  
D = very important

- 39. How would you interpret the character of this person? What is the significance of the setting?  
A   B   C   D
- 40. Did you find that any of these people are like people you know? Did anything like this happen to you?  
A   B   C   D
- 41. Do any of the formal devices (sound, structure, syntax) have any significance? What symbols do you find in the work?  
A   B   C   D
- 42. What is the genre of the work? In what literary tradition is it?  
A   B   C   D
- 43. Does this work describe the world as it is? Do you find the world like the way it is described in this work?  
A   B   C   D
- 44. What is the author teaching us? What is the work criticizing?  
A   B   C   D
- 45. What is the tone (effect, mood, attitude, or point-of-view) in the work?  
A   B   C   D
- 46. What emotions or feelings does the work arouse in you?  
A   B   C   D
- 47. Is this work about serious things? Is it significant literature?  
A   B   C   D
- 48. Does the work succeed in getting you involved in its situation? Is it successful in arousing your emotions?  
A   B   C   D

49. Is there any one part of the work that explains the whole work?
- A   B   C   D
50. Indicate which of the following best describes your impression of your students.
- A. Most are genuinely and seriously interested in Literature.
- B. Most are mainly interested in comics, movies, and television, not in serious Literature.
- C. Most are interested in doing well in Literature courses, but not in what they read.
51. Indicate if your post-secondary education was
- A. mainly in Literature
- B. mainly in some other field.



52 - 59.

Listed below are a number of goals for the teaching of literature, frequently mentioned by teachers. Please rank them in the order of importance to you as a teacher. Rank the most important 1, the next 2, and so on. Please assign a rank only once.

- A. To improve the literary tastes of students
- B. To teach the students the history of their literature
- C. To acquaint the students with their literary and cultural heritage
- D. To help the students understand themselves and the human condition
- E. To develop the students' ability to discuss the variety of literary forms that are around them
- F. To develop the critical faculties and analytic skills of the students
- G. To develop the students' ability to use their language
- H. To show the students the ways by which language affects their response to events.

52. Indicate your first choice:

A B C D E F G H

53. Indicate your second choice:

A B C D E F G H

54. Indicate your third choice:

A B C D E F G H

55. Indicate your fourth choice:

A B C D E F G H

56. Indicate your fifth choice:

A B C D E F G H

57. Indicate your sixth choice:

A B C D E F G H

58. Indicate your seventh choice:

A B C D E F G H

59. Indicate your eighth choice:

A B C D E F G H