Measuring Attitude Toward Reading:  
Another Tool For Teachers

Marley W. Watkins

A reading attitude survey was recently published by McKenna and Kear in The Reading Teacher (1990) and a Spanish language translation was printed in the Arizona Reading Journal (1992). This Elementary Reading Attitude Survey (ERAS), scoring criteria, and normative tables were placed into the public domain and provide teachers with a useful tool for exploring the reading attitudes of their students.

Administration of the ERAS is straightforward and requires little time. Scoring is not so quick. Each student's answers to 20 items must be summed into three categories and then percentiles corresponding to each of the three raw score sums must be located in appropriate tables. Classroom averages require summing all raw scores, finding means, and then referring to percentile tables once again. Such intensive usage of tables requires considerable time and may lead to scoring errors (Slate & Chick, 1989; Slate & Jones, 1990). The present paper describes a computer program which automates scoring of the ERAS to reduce scoring time and improve scoring accuracy.

Language and Computer

The ERAS Analysis program is written in Applesoft BASIC, requires 64K RAM under the DOS 3.3 operating system, and is contained on a single 5.25 inch disk. It is designed to operate on the Apple IIe and Apple IIGS microcomputers. An Image Writer II printer or equivalent is necessary for printing results.

Input

Data is input from the keyboard into data files which correspond to classrooms. That is, a data file is created and named after the teacher, each child's responses to the 20 ERAS items is typed, and the resultant file is stored on the disk. Input is interactive and allows editing and review of data. Instructions and descriptions are contained on the disk.

Output

Printed output consists of two pages for each classroom file. Examples of both pages are found in the Appendix. The first page was designed as a validity check and permanent record. Each student's name, grade level, and raw score response to all 20 ERAS items are printed. The second output page presents summary statistics for each student as well as the total class. Abbreviations used on this page are explained in Table 1. Standard scores as presented have a mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15. Standard scores were calculated from grade level norms presented by McKenna and Kear (1990) using a formula described by Sattler (1988). Standard scores are produced because percentiles have been demonstrated to be nonnormally distributed and therefore not generally appropriate for other statistical analyses (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re</td>
<td>raw score for Recreational reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ac</td>
<td>raw score for Academic reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To</td>
<td>raw score for Total reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%Re</td>
<td>percentile rank for Recreational reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%Ac</td>
<td>percentile rank for Academic reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%To</td>
<td>percentile rank for Total reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS Re</td>
<td>standard score for Recreational reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS Ac</td>
<td>standard score for Academic reading attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS To</td>
<td>standard score for Total reading attitude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Availability

The Analysis of ERAS program is available on disk from the author by sending $10.00 to cover postage, duplication, and media costs. Mail requests to: 511 West Wood Drive; Phoenix, AZ 85029. Requests from outside the United States and purchase orders should include an additional $5.00 for delivery.

References


Nurture imagination, promote reading, joy, and comprehension with multicultural stories and drawing activities

Reproduce all child teaching pages. Each story as you teach. You can also use these created books to help children visualize and draw the events of each story. Students can translate the words of the story into vivid and personal images—bringing each story to life in a unique and individual way.

Each tale—
• Presents a story from a particular culture
• Has predictability and repetition to encourage involvement and memorization
• Deals with issues important to children and is nonviolent
• Inspires discussions about choices and ethics
• Offers an excellent literature approach for resource specialists
• And, most important, it tells a good story!

Grades K-8, 128 pages, $11.95, softbound. ZB29-E...

Finally, there's a new, different kind of magazine for home schools!

Glossy Magazine

Concentrates on the nuts-and-bolts of teaching: that is, the things that happen when the parent and child sit down together for the day's lessons

Lots of Reproducibles!

Published by a certified teacher and home schooling mother

Get help with:
• lesson planning
• time management
• organization
• evaluation
• content matter

Also includes:
• activities for kids
• bulletin board ideas
• short lessons

□ Yes, I would like a one-year subscription to Home School Advantage Magazine for $17. The first issue will arrive in September '92, then quarterly thereafter.
□ Paymeten enclosed □ Bill me

Name:

Address:

□ Send me one sample copy for $4.50. (Payment must accompany order)

Make check or money order payable to Home School Advantage.

P.O. Box 8190
Florence, AZ 85066-8190

Appendix: Elementary Reading Attitude Survey Analysis Output

FILE: MS. ATLAS

Analysis of the Elementary Reading Attitude Survey
Copyright 1990 by Harley Watkins

Name

Re Ac To Nc Wc Vt SS Re SS Ac SS

STEVEN AGRICULTURE 26 26 52 25 57 29 89 94 91
JOSHD ASHLEY 39 33 66 68 73 71 107 109 109
AMANDA BROWER 35 36 71 79 85 84 112 116 116
ADAM BOOCE 35 36 71 79 85 84 112 116 116
BAILEY BROWER 35 23 58 79 29 47 112 87 99
MEL BROWER 34 30 64 57 66 110 103 106
AKNER CAMPWELL 35 33 68 79 73 77 112 109 112
TIN COOLEY 37 40 77 88 99 94 118 125 124
DAVID BURDA 26 13 39 26 1 4 89 66 74
JENNIFER CURIE 25 18 44 25 6 9 89 75 80
ASHLEY DREVISON 36 33 71 92 73 84 120 109 116
NATALIE DREVISON 36 36 68 67 94 115 107 112
KIRA DIETZ 25 35 61 25 81 57 89 114 103
DAVE FRANKLIN 40 40 60 99 99 99 125 128 128
JUSTIN GERRY 36 24 57 97 51 45 94 100 97
DAVID HORSEIN 38 26 64 92 37 66 120 94 106
LYNETTE HOOPER 34 33 67 74 62 69 110 109 110
KRISTY LARER 36 35 70 79 81 82 114 114 114
BRIANNE LYDHE 36 36 71 79 85 84 112 116 116
JOHN NAIR 34 31 65 74 62 69 110 109 108
SHANNON NOVILLANS 28 24 52 37 27 29 94 89 91
ANDREA NILES 32 27 56 44 41 41 97 96 96
ETHAN ROBINS 35 27 62 79 41 60 112 96 104
ANDREW ROUSEVELT 25 23 48 20 23 18 86 87 85
Misty SATIRE 30 22 52 50 18 29 99 85 91
ERIN WATKINS 40 30 70 99 57 82 126 126 134

ZEPHYR PRESS

3316 N. Chapel Ave.
P.O. Box 13448-E
Tucson, AZ 85732-3448

Arizona Reading Journal, 21(1), Fall/Winter 1992