

Participation Status

A B C D E F G H I J K L

Teacher's
Questionnaire Booklet Number

Age (on August 31, 2001)

13 16

Sex
M F

School Achievement Indicators Program

Writing

Assessment III

Student Writing Booklet B



2002

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Student Questionnaire

DIRECTIONS

In this part of the assessment, you will find questions about yourself and your writing skills and habits, both in school and out of school. Some questions ask for facts, while others ask for opinions. There will also be some questions about the assessment itself. Your answers, along with your test results and those of other students, will provide a picture of how students in Canada go about writing.

Please read each question carefully and answer as accurately as possible. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Your answers are confidential and nobody will be able to identify you from these answers.

Most of the questions will be followed by a few choices indicated by a letter. For these questions, please respond by circling your choice next to or below your choice as shown in Example 1.

Example 1

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
I like to listen to music.	A	B	C	<input checked="" type="radio"/> D

For other questions you will be asked to give a number or word in a blank as in Example 2. For these questions, please write clearly so that your response can be read.

Example 2

What year is this?.....

Thank you for your time, effort and thought in completing this questionnaire.

1 In which year were you born?

- 1984 A
- 1985 B
- 1987 C
- 1988 D

2 In which month were you born?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| January A | July G |
| February B | August H |
| March C | September I |
| April D | October J |
| May E | November K |
| June F | December L |

3 In which province or territory do you attend school?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| British Columbia A | Prince Edward Island H |
| Alberta B | Nova Scotia I |
| Saskatchewan C | Newfoundland/Labrador J |
| Manitoba D | Nunavut K |
| Ontario E | Northwest Territories L |
| Quebec F | Yukon M |
| New Brunswick G | |

4 What grade or level are you in this year?

- Grade 6 A
- Grade 7 (Secondary 1 in Quebec) B
- Grade 8 (Secondary 2 in Quebec) C
- Grade 9 (Secondary 3 in Quebec, Senior 1 in Manitoba) D
- Grade 10 (Secondary 4 in Quebec, Level I in Newfoundland and Labrador,
Senior 2 in Manitoba) E
- Grade 11 (Secondary 5 in Quebec, Level II in Newfoundland and Labrador,
Senior 3 in Manitoba) F
- Grade 12 (Level III in Newfoundland, Senior 4 in Manitoba) G
- OAC (Ontario) H
- CEGEP (Quebec) I

5 Are you male or female?

- Male A
- Female B

6 Were you born in Canada?

- Yes A
- No B

7 If you were not born in Canada, how old were you when you came to Canada?

I came to Canada when I was years old.

8 Which of these languages is (are) spoken in your home?

	<i>often spoken</i>	<i>sometimes spoken</i>
English	A	B
French	A	B
Aboriginal language	A	B
Other	A	B

9 Which of these languages do you speak regularly at school between classes or at breaks or lunch?

	<i>often spoken</i>	<i>sometimes spoken</i>
English	A	B
French	A	B
Aboriginal language	A	B
Other	A	B

9A Have you ever taken part in an English as a Second Language program?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
This school year	A	B
In earlier years	A	B

10 In the normal course of a week, how many languages do you use regularly?

10A Have you ever taken part in a French immersion program?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
This year	A	B
In earlier school years	A	B
Never	A	B

10B If you did take part in a French immersion program, for how many years did you do this?

One	A
Two or three	B
Four or five	C
More than five	D

10C If you did take part in a French immersion program, in what grade did you begin?

11 Which statement best describes the English Language Arts course(s) you are taking this school year?

- I am now taking one English Language Arts course. A
- I took an English Language Arts course last semester, but not this semester. B
- I started taking an English Language Arts course this year, but dropped it. C
- I have not taken any English Language Arts courses this year. D
- I am now taking more than one English Language Arts course. E

12 Are you taking or have you taken courses in any of the following areas this school year?

- | | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Media Studies/Communications | A | B |
| Canadian Literature | A | B |
| Theatre Arts | A | B |
| Creative Writing | A | B |
| Journalism | A | B |

13 What is your average mark in your English Language Arts courses this school year?

- Above 90 A
- Between 80 and 89 B
- Between 70 and 79 C
- Between 60 and 69 D
- Between 50 and 59 E
- Below 50 F
- Don't know, or no grades given G
- Not taking English Language Arts this year H

14 How satisfied are you with how well you are doing in your English Language Arts courses this school year?

- Very satisfied A
- Satisfied B
- Dissatisfied C
- Very dissatisfied D

15 After you finish high school, do you expect to continue your education?

- Yes A
- No B

(If NO, please go to question 17.)

16 If YES, what form of further education do you intend to take?

- Specialized work or trade training A
- Technical or technology training B
- University or college C
- Other D
- Don't know E

17 How important do the following people think it is for you to do well in SCHOOL?

	<i>very</i> <i>unimportant</i>	<i>unimportant</i>	<i>important</i>	<i>very</i> <i>important</i>
Parents.....	A	B	C	D
Friends.....	A	B	C	D
Teachers.....	A	B	C	D
Yourself.....	A	B	C	D

18 How important do the following people think it is for you to do well in English Language Arts courses?

	<i>very</i> <i>unimportant</i>	<i>unimportant</i>	<i>important</i>	<i>very</i> <i>important</i>
Parents.....	A	B	C	D
Friends.....	A	B	C	D
English Language Arts teachers	A	B	C	D
Other teachers	A	B	C	D
Yourself.....	A	B	C	D

19 In a normal week (including the weekend) how much time do you usually spend doing each of these things outside of school hours?

	<i>no</i> <i>time</i>	<i>less</i> <i>than 1 hr.</i>	<i>1-2</i> <i>hrs.</i>	<i>3-4</i> <i>hrs.</i>	<i>5-6</i> <i>hrs.</i>	<i>more</i> <i>than 6 hrs</i>
Taking extra school lessons or being tutored.....	A	B	C	D	E	F
Taking other lessons (e.g., music, swimming)	A	B	C	D	E	F
Studying or doing homework in English Language Arts courses	A	B	C	D	E	F
Studying or doing homework in other subjects.....	A	B	C	D	E	F
Reading for enjoyment	A	B	C	D	E	F
Using a computer for school purposes (e.g., research, writing)	A	B	C	D	E	F
Using a computer for entertainment (e.g. Internet, e-mail, computer games) ...	A	B	C	D	E	F

20 Outside of school, how often would you say you ...

	<i>rarely</i> <i>or</i> <i>never</i>	<i>a few</i> <i>times a</i> <i>month</i>	<i>a few</i> <i>times a</i> <i>week</i>	<i>almost</i> <i>every</i> <i>day</i>
Write in a journal/diary	A	B	C	D
Write letters to friends, relatives, or pen-pals.....	A	B	C	D
Read and reply to e-mail	A	B	C	D
Chat on the Internet.....	A	B	C	D

Outside of school, how often would you say you ...

	<i>rarely or never</i>	<i>a few times a month</i>	<i>a few times a week</i>	<i>almost every day</i>
Write stories	A	B	C	D
Write poems, songs	A	B	C	D
Read a book other than school books	A	B	C	D
Read a daily newspaper	A	B	C	D
Read a magazine	A	B	C	D
Write for the school newspaper, yearbook	A	B	C	D

21 Have you ever had a tutor for reading or writing?

Yes	A
No	B

22 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling your choice that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

	<i>strongly disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>strongly agree</i>
Writing is more difficult than other school work.	A	B	C	D
I am not very interested in writing.	A	B	C	D
Writing is an important part of school work.	A	B	C	D
Writing is important for my future studies.	A	B	C	D
Many good jobs require good writing skills.	A	B	C	D
I would like to do more writing in school.	A	B	C	D

23 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling your choice that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

	<i>strongly disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>strongly agree</i>
To be able to write well you need...				
lots of natural ability.	A	B	C	D
to work hard at your writing	A	B	C	D
lots of studying at home.	A	B	C	D
to write a lot on your own time.	A	B	C	D
a good teacher.	A	B	C	D

Please respond to each of the following statements by circling your choice that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

strongly disagree *disagree* *agree* *strongly agree*

When I get an unusually low mark in an English Language Arts assignment, it is most likely because...

- I did not study hard enough. A B C D
- the teacher marked too hard. A B C D
- I had bad luck. A B C D
- the course was difficult. A B C D
- the course was not well taught. A B C D

When I get an unusually high mark in an English Language Arts assignment, it is most likely because...

- I worked especially hard to do well. A B C D
- the teacher was easy in marking. A B C D
- I had good luck. A B C D
- the course was easy. A B C D
- the course was well taught. A B C D

24 If I were faced with difficulty in trying to write, I would be likely to ...

strongly disagree *disagree* *agree* *strongly agree*

- ask the teacher for help. A B C D
- ask a friend for help. A B C D
- ask my parents for help. A B C D
- keep trying until I am satisfied. A B C D
- give up and not try to overcome my difficulty. A B C D

25 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling your choice that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

strongly disagree *disagree* *agree* *strongly agree*

- I like to learn new things. A B C D
- I have lots of friends in school. A B C D
- I feel good about school. A B C D
- I am bossed around too much in school. .. A B C D
- I know how to cope with school work. A B C D
- I am genuinely interested in school work. A B C D
- I get along with most students in my school. A B C D
- I know that people respect me in school. .. A B C D
- I am usually bored in school. A B C D
- My teachers treat me fairly. A B C D

Please respond to each of the following statements by circling your choice that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

- | | <i>strongly
disagree</i> | <i>disagree</i> | <i>agree</i> | <i>strongly
agree</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| I enjoy going to school. | A | B | C | D |
| I feel good about my school work. | A | B | C | D |
| There are not many interesting things
to do in school. | A | B | C | D |
| I feel important in school. | A | B | C | D |
| I get the marks I deserve. | A | B | C | D |

26 Which of these statements best describes how you feel about writing?

- I enjoy writing. A
- I enjoy writing some of the time B
- I enjoy writing, depending on what I'm writing. C
- I really don't like writing. D
- I'm not sure how I feel about writing. E

27 How confident do you feel as a writer?

- Very confident A
- Quite confident B
- Not at all confident C

28 How many pages of writing do you do each month in addition to school-related writing (other types of writing include journals, computer writing, job-related writing, stories, poems, etc.)?

- More than 10 pages A
- 6–10 pages B
- 1–5 pages C
- None or almost none D

29 In your opinion, how useful will the writing skills you are learning be in adult life?

- Very useful A
- Useful B
- Not at all useful C

30 How often did you see someone in your home writing when you were younger?

- Usually every day A
- Once a week or more B
- Never C
- I don't know D

31 How often do you see someone in your home writing now?

- Usually every day A
- Once a week or more B
- Never C
- I don't know D

32 Which of these writing habits do you use when you are writing?

- | | <i>always or
almost always</i> | <i>usually</i> | <i>sometimes</i> | <i>rarely or
never</i> |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| I talk with others about what I'm writing. | A | B | C | D |
| I depend on what I know and on my experience. | A | B | C | D |
| I consult reference sources for facts and information about my topic. | A | B | C | D |
| I write down ideas as I think about my assignment. | A | B | C | D |
| I use writing strategies such as webbing, drafting, note taking, highlighting, making a plan or outline before I start. | A | B | C | D |
| I prefer to start writing without planning first to get my ideas down. | A | B | C | D |
| I revise and edit my writing. | A | B | C | D |
| I use a computer when I write. | A | B | C | D |
| I write several drafts of my pieces. | A | B | C | D |
| I use writing tools like dictionaries, spell checkers, thesauruses, and grammar handbooks. | A | B | C | D |
| I talk about my writing with my teacher. | A | B | C | D |
| I discuss my writing with others. | A | B | C | D |
| I keep my works in progress and special pieces in a portfolio. | A | B | C | D |
| I publish my writing at times. | A | B | C | D |

33 How many days would you say you have been absent from school this year?

- None A
- 1 or 2 days B
- 3 to 5 days C
- 6 to 10 days D
- More than 10 E

34 How many hours per week would you say you spend watching television?

- Less than 5 hours A
- 5–9 hours B
- 10–14 hours C
- 15–19 hours D
- 20–24 hours E
- 25–29 hours F
- 30 hours or more G

35 How often do you and your parent(s) or guardian(s) ...

- | | <i>rarely or
never</i> | <i>a few times
a month</i> | <i>a few times
a week</i> | <i>almost
every day</i> |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| work together on your English Language Arts homework? | A | B | C | D |
| work together on homework in other subjects? | A | B | C | D |
| discuss your school work, assignments, projects? | A | B | C | D |
| discuss your daily activities? | A | B | C | D |
| discuss your future? | A | B | C | D |

36 In your English Language Arts courses this year, how often do the following things happen?

- | | <i>rarely or
never</i> | <i>a few times
a month</i> | <i>a few times
a week</i> | <i>almost
every day</i> |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| We write for different purposes. | A | B | C | D |
| We write for different audiences. | A | B | C | D |
| We write on a variety of assigned topics. | A | B | C | D |
| We choose our own topics. | A | B | C | D |
| We practise different forms of writing (story, opinion piece, personal account, article, speech, essay, ...) | A | B | C | D |
| We can choose the form of writing we do. | A | B | C | D |
| We are assigned types of writing in our class. | A | B | C | D |
| We examine and discuss examples of good writing. | A | B | C | D |
| We revise our own writing after comments by the teacher. | A | B | C | D |
| We edit each other's writing. | A | B | C | D |
| We work on writing assignments in pairs or in small groups. | A | B | C | D |

In your English Language Arts courses this year, how often do the following things happen?

	<i>rarely or never</i>	<i>a few times a month</i>	<i>a few times a week</i>	<i>almost every day</i>
The teacher assigns writing to be done outside of class.	A	B	C	D
We work alone on writing assignments. ...	A	B	C	D
We write book reviews	A	B	C	D
We analyze models of good writing such as novels, poems, articles	A	B	C	D
We learn about different styles of writing.	A	B	C	D
We study grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	A	B	C	D
We study sentence structure.	A	B	C	D
We work on improving our vocabulary.	A	B	C	D
We have opportunities to talk with our teacher about our writing.	A	B	C	D

37 In your English Language Arts courses this year, how often do the following things happen?

	<i>rarely or never</i>	<i>a few times a month</i>	<i>a few times a week</i>	<i>almost every day</i>
The teacher gives notes.	A	B	C	D
The teacher asks questions of students or the class.	A	B	C	D
Students ask the teacher questions.	A	B	C	D
There is noise or disorder in the classroom.	A	B	C	D
We lose 5 or 10 minutes because of disruptions.	A	B	C	D
We discuss or do things other than the topic of the lesson.	A	B	C	D
The teacher reads from or summarizes the textbook.	A	B	C	D
The teacher reads aloud from a book or article other than the textbook.	A	B	C	D
We read silently, using materials that we choose ourselves.	A	B	C	D
We discuss an upcoming quiz or test or one just finished.	A	B	C	D
The teacher works with individual students.	A	B	C	D

38 How often are the following resources used in your English Language Arts courses this year?

	<i>rarely or never</i>	<i>a few times a month</i>	<i>a few times a week</i>	<i>almost every day</i>
Computers for word processing.....	A	B	C	D
Instructional software	A	B	C	D
Print magazines or newspapers	A	B	C	D
Overhead projector	A	B	C	D
Slides, films, or videos	A	B	C	D
The school library or resource centre	A	B	C	D
The Internet or World Wide Web	A	B	C	D
Experts within the community (e.g., writers)	A	B	C	D

39 About how many pages of writing do you do each month for your English Language Arts class?

More than 10 pages.....	A
6 –10 pages	B
1–5 pages	C
None or almost none	D
I am not currently taking English Language Arts.....	E

40 About how many pages of writing do you do in all your classes other than English Language Arts each month?

More than 10 pages.....	A
6 –10 pages	B
1–5 pages	C
None or almost none	D

41 In all of your courses in school this year, about how often have you had to write essays, research papers, or anything else longer than a paragraph?

Rarely or never	A
A few times a month	B
A few times a week	C
Almost every day	D

42 In courses other than English Language Arts, how often do your teachers...

	<i>rarely or never</i>	<i>a few times a month</i>	<i>a few times a week</i>	<i>almost every day</i>
Explain the writing forms used in their subjects?	A	B	C	D
Correct your writing and explain how to improve it?	A	B	C	D
Count writing as part of your mark?	A	B	C	D

43 Did you receive the *Student Resource Booklet* for this assessment?

- Yes A
- No B

If you answered YES to question 43, please answer questions 44 to 50. If you answered NO to question 43, please go directly to question number 51 and finish the questionnaire.

44 When did you receive the resource booklet?

- A week or more ago A
- A few days ago B
- Yesterday C
- Today D

45 Did you read the resource booklet?

- Yes, all of it A
- Yes, some of it B
- No C

46 How useful was the resource booklet in doing your writing today?

- Very useful A
- Useful B
- Not at all useful C

47 Did you use the “Thoughts” page?

- Yes A
- No B

48 If you used the “Thoughts” page, what did you write on it? Circle ALL that apply.

- Examples and facts taken from the resource booklet A
- Quotations, sayings, and/or definitions from other sources B
- Your feelings and impressions C
- A few personal ideas about the theme D

49 Did you find the “Thoughts” page helpful in doing your writing today?

- Yes A
- No B

50 Did you discuss or think about the resource booklet and the general theme with ...

- | | <i>a lot</i> | <i>a little</i> | <i>not at all</i> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Your classmates? | A | B | C |
| Your friends? | A | B | C |
| Your English Language Arts teacher? | A | B | C |
| Other teacher(s)? | A | B | C |

Did you discuss or think about the resource booklet and the general theme with ...

	<i>a lot</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>not at all</i>
Your parent(s)/guardian(s)?	A	B	C
Other family member(s)?	A	B	C
Yourself ?	A	B	C

The next two questions are about your mother and father or for those persons who are most like parents to you. This might include step-parents, foster parents, or guardians. It is OK to answer for only one parent if you think that is best.

51 What level of education did your mother and father achieve?

(Circle the highest level.)

Mother Father

Did not complete high school	A	A
Completed high school	B	B
Some education after high school	C	C
Technician or technology education	D	D
Some university education	E	E
Completed university degree(s)	F	F
I don't know	G	G

52 What kind of jobs do your mother (or female guardian) and father (or male guardian) have?

(If your mother or father is not working now, please think about the job they had for most of the time when they were working. Also, think about the kind of work they do, not who they work for.)

(Circle one category only for mother and one for father)

Mother Father

General worker (e.g., warehouse person, taxi driver, construction worker, server in restaurant)	A	A
Plant or machine operator or production worker (e.g., truck driver, factory or plant worker)	B	B
Farmer/fisher/logger/hunter/trapper	C	C
Sales or customer service worker (e.g., clerk, secretary, salesperson)	D	D
Trades or crafts person (e.g., carpenter, mechanic, police officer)	E	E
Technologist or associate professional (e.g., medical technologist, computer programmer or analyst, pilot)	F	F
Manager (e.g., small business owner/operator, manager in a large business or government office)	G	G

What kind of jobs do your mother (or female guardian) and father (or male guardian) have?

(If your mother or father is not working now, please think about the job they had for most of the time when they were working. Also, think about the kind of work they do, not who they work for.)

(Circle one category only for mother and one for father)

	<i>Mother</i>	<i>Father</i>
Professional (e.g., lawyer, accountant, engineer, doctor, professor, teacher)	H	H
Senior official, executive, or large business owner (e.g., legislator, senior civil servant, judge, senior officer, or owner of a large company)	I	I
Home duties	J	J
Other	K	K
I don't know	L	L

53 Do you have these items in your home?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
A study desk or table mainly for your own use	A	B
Dictionary	A	B
Encyclopedia	A	B
Computer	A	B
Internet connection	A	B

54 Do you or your family buy or subscribe to ...

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a daily newspaper	A	B
a news magazine (e.g., <i>Maclean's</i> , <i>Time</i>)	A	B
other magazines	A	B
books	A	B

55 Other than school books, about how many books would you say are in your home?

None	A
Up to 40 (enough to fill a book shelf)	B
Up to 200 (enough to fill a book case)	C
Up to 400 (enough to fill two book cases)	D
More than 400	E

Thank you again for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

