



# READING... WHEN YOU DON'T LIKE READING

Some people just don't like to read. Whether it's a lack of interest, because they have trouble reading, or because of low literacy skills, they have less motivation to read and write. But these people still engage in a wide range of reading practices that can help develop, improve, or maintain their reading skills.

Abid doesn't like to read, but he studies every day for the upcoming exam.



Romie doesn't like to read, but she always keeps up with her friends' social media posts.



Cedric doesn't like to read, but he's constantly combing through a gardening blog to keep his plants healthy.



Al doesn't like to read, but he often browses through the news section of the local paper.

Senna doesn't like to read, but every week, she checks out columns on the latest gadgets.



## FUNCTIONAL READING: A KEY ALLY



Whether for school, work, leisure, or social interactions, even people who say they don't enjoy reading will read to find information, perform a task, or communicate.

**This is where functional reading becomes important, because reading is not an end in and of itself, but a method of pursuing one's interests or achieving a goal.**

And while reading fiction will have the greatest effect on reading comprehension, for those who otherwise have little interest in reading, functional reading will have the most impact.

# READING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH WHO DON'T LIKE TO READ?

*Yes, it's possible.*

There are practices that will help motivate unengaged readers, who are more likely to associate reading solely with school and thus less prone to reading outside the classroom.

- **Take the school out of reading**, i.e., dissociate reading from any teaching or pedagogical expectations so that students can read without worrying about being evaluated, compared, or labelled.
- **Give these students as much choice as possible**, including the choice of not reading or abandoning a book they don't like.
- **Encourage them to talk about their tastes** and interests so you can better guide their choices.
- **Encourage them to talk about what they are reading with classmates**; this will help them better understand their own tastes and share their discoveries.
- **Suggest texts or works of an appropriate level of difficulty** so as to develop their confidence.
- Give them a chance to **meet writers, mentors**, and reading role models.
- **Make connections** between artistic activities that they enjoy and reading/writing.
- **Read to them** or introduce them to **audio books**.



## LITERACY LEVEL: a key factor to consider when organizing activities

Literacy is a person's ability to assimilate reading and writing.

People do not all have the same literacy level:

- **34.3%** of Quebecers are at literacy level 2.<sup>1</sup>  
Adults at this level are considered functionally illiterate. In other words, they can read simple texts but cannot comprehend complex writing.
- **This ability changes over time.** It will improve with practice and decline if not used.



**For more information about reading and persevering at school,  
SEE OUR KEY TOPIC WEBPAGE:**  
(French only)

[www.reseautreussitemontreal.ca/dossiers-thematiques/lecture-et-perseverance-scolaire/](http://www.reseautreussitemontreal.ca/dossiers-thematiques/lecture-et-perseverance-scolaire/)

1. Literacy Foundation. 2020. "Causes of Illiteracy: Mistaken beliefs." <https://www.fondationalphabetisation.org/en/causes-of-illiteracy/mistaken-beliefs/> [2020-04-21]

