

**Table 111.—Student proficiency in reading, by age, amount of time spent on homework, and reading habits: 1984, 1994, and 1996**

Time spent on homework and reading habits	9-year-olds <sup>1</sup>			13-year-olds <sup>1</sup>			17-year-olds <sup>1</sup>		
	1984	1994	1996	1984	1994	1996	1984	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Average proficiency									
Materials read a few times a year or more									
Poems .....	211	210	—	260	261	—	290	293	—
Plays .....	211	207	—	260	263	—	290	294	—
Biographies .....	213	210	—	261	261	—	292	293	—
Science books .....	212	211	—	259	260	—	289	293	—
Books about other places .....	211	211	—	259	260	—	289	293	—
Frequency of reading for fun									
Daily .....	214	215	213	264	272	270	297	302	301
Weekly .....	212	214	212	255	255	259	290	286	292
Monthly .....	204	213	210	255	255	260	290	286	290
Yearly .....	197	—	—	252	252	—	280	281	285
Never .....	198	193	199	239	237	238	269	258	269
Time spent on homework each day									
None .....	213	213	210	254	250	256	276	273	273
Didn't do assignment .....	199	200	195	247	243	251	287	285	281
Less than 1 hour .....	218	212	215	261	261	259	290	288	288
1 to 2 hours .....	216	214	220	266	268	267	296	297	295
More than 2 hours .....	201	193	198	265	270	269	303	306	307
Percent									
Materials read a few times a year or more									
Poems .....	70	62	60	68	79	80	76	85	80
Plays .....	56	45	42	59	63	67	63	70	67
Biographies .....	45	47	46	62	68	65	59	69	66
Science books .....	84	87	83	90	92	90	70	84	82
Books about other places .....	79	79	78	83	83	84	81	82	81
Frequency of reading for fun									
Daily .....	53	58	54	35	32	32	31	30	23
Weekly .....	28	25	27	35	32	31	34	31	32
Monthly .....	7	5	8	14	14	15	17	15	17
Yearly .....	3	3	3	7	10	9	10	12	12
Never .....	9	9	8	9	12	13	9	12	16
Time spent on homework each day									
None .....	36	32	26	23	23	22	22	23	23
Didn't do assignment .....	4	5	4	4	6	5	11	11	13
Less than 1 hour .....	42	48	53	36	34	37	26	27	28
1 to 2 hours .....	13	12	13	29	28	27	27	26	24
More than 2 hours .....	6	4	4	9	9	8	13	13	11

<sup>1</sup> Excludes persons not enrolled in school.  
—Data not available.

NOTE.—These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP scores have been evaluated at certain performance levels. A score of 300 implies an ability to find, understand, summarize and explain relatively complicated literary and informational material. A score of 250 implies an ability to search for specific information, interrelate ideas, and make generalizations about literature, science, and social studies materials. A score of 200 implies an ability to understand,

combine ideas, and make inferences based on short uncomplicated passages about specific or sequentially related information. A score of 150 implies an ability to follow brief written directions and carry out simple, discrete reading tasks. Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared September 1997.)