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Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith

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Round Robin is a forum intended for our readers' use to express or comment on any topical subject affecting the field of reading. Send your letters or comments to Dorothy E. Smith, Round Robin Editor.



Dorothy E. Smith, Editor

We all have been hearing more and more about "SSR"—the daily period of Sustained Silent Reading that is observed in some cases, by *everyone* in a school building (even the janitor). Enthusiasm is growing for this activity, and we are expecting to begin hearing people's reactions. Here is a letter from Shirley Madsen that you might find quite interesting, especially if you are using SSR or are contemplating instituting it in your classes.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

I am wondering how much response you may have gotten to the article, "The S.S. Reading: Does it Float?" in the Winter issue. Last fall, I administered tests to all students in the junior high school. The seventh grade teacher whose room is next to mine had some 15 students who tested below grade level, and asked me what he could do to help them. I suggested that he borrow some of my low level reading materials and try SSR daily. Four months later he wanted to have them re-tested. I did administer the post test, but decided we might find out more if we also re-tested another 7th grade class. The results are attached. I don't have enough background in statistics to know if the difference is significant, but it does indicate that the SSR class did better in this instance. I also recognize that there are too many variables such as class size, lack of knowledge about IQs, etc.

Helena Junior High School test of Sustained Silent Reading

Test: *Nelson Reading Test*, Forms A and B

Pre test date: September 12, 1974

Post test date: January 13, 1975

Both classes were seventh grade students, with young, male teachers and both met during the second period every day. The first class (marked SSR) had a period of sustained silent reading of between 10 and 20 minutes daily. The other class had no such period, although they did some silent reading of social studies materials.

	SSR	No. SSR
Number of students	24	28
Number of students showing gain in vocabulary	20	18
Number of students showing gain in comprehension	17	17
Number of students showing gain in "Total"	19	17
Number of students showing loss in vocabulary	3	9
Number of students showing loss in comprehension	6	6
Number of students showing loss in "Total"	4	8
Number of students with no change in vocabulary	1	1
Number of students with no change in comprehension	1	5
Number of students with no change in "Total"	1	3
Average gain, of those showing gain in vocabulary	1.15	.9
Average gain, of those showing gain in comprehension	1.3	1.4
Average gain, of those showing gain in "Total"	1.25	1.5
Total average gain (gain minus loss) in vocabulary	.8	.36
Total average gain (gain minus loss) in comprehension	.71	.68
Total average gain (gain minus loss) in "Total"	.85	.5

Shirley Madsen
 Helena Junior High School
 1025 N. Rodney
 Helena, Montana