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ADDENDUM
THE COVERING LETTER

P.O Box 2420
Potchefstroom
October 1999

The Principal

Dear Sir

Reading Research

I hereby kindly apply for your co-operation concerning the following matter. As part of my PhD-studies, I am conducting a survey in the North West Province on reading interests in the senior primary phase. I have permission from Mr Meraba, the inspector of North West, to perform the survey. I would appreciate it if you would request the language teachers to let learners complete the questionnaires included.

Results will be made known to you and your school will also be given a report that can be illuminating with regard to the selection of reading material for your senior learners.

Kind regards

C. Gibbens

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

CATEGORY A : PERSONAL DETAILS

Closed questions on personal details.

Please fill in the following form. Use block letters to complete or a cross to indicate your choice:

Name (optional): _____

Surname (optional): _____

Sex:	Female (girl)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Male (boy)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicity:	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Coloured	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
	White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age:	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
	12	<input type="checkbox"/>
	13	<input type="checkbox"/>
	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grade:		<input type="checkbox"/>
Home language	Eng	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Afr	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Black (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion:	Methodist	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Anglican	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/>

Roman

Hindu

Atheist

Other

Complete in block letters:

Parents' occupations (e.g. teacher/housewife):

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Home address: _____

CATEGORY B: Access to reading opportunities by learners

Indicate your choice by making a cross across the answer of your choice:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | I have a private room or reading corner at home | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | I have more than five books/magazines to read at home | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | My parents encourage me to read | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | I prefer watching TV to reading books | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | We have magazines at home | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | My parents read to me when I was little | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | I am a member of a public library | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | I am fond of reading | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | I am interested in writing stories for others to read | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | We often read stories at home when together | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/> |

CATEGORY C : MORE SPECIFIC READING CHOICES

Rate the following from a scale 1-6. (1 will be your stronger or most popular choice.)

11 My choice of books

Romantic love stories

Science fiction

Adventure

Horror stories

Detective stories

Other (Specify)

Indicate your choice by means of a cross: X through the answer in 12-25. Choose between the two options given.

12 I prefer

Comedies (funny stories)

Tragedies (sad stories)

13 I prefer

Fables: animal stories

Real-life stories

14 I prefer the pictures to be

Colourful

Black and white

15 I prefer

Pictures

No pictures

16 I prefer stories to:

Deal with life in the townships

Not to deal with life in the townships

17 I prefer major characters to be

	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	I prefer the characters to be	
	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Coloured	<input type="checkbox"/>
	White	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	I prefer the size of the letters to be	
	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Big	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	I prefer the book covers	
	Hard	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soft	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	I prefer	
	Comics	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Picture books (books with no written story)	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	I prefer a storybook to include	
	Poems	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dialogues-conversations-role	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	I prefer a story	
	Long	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Short	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	I had read books by 2 August 2000	
	1-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	More	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	I have friends	
	Few	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Many	<input type="checkbox"/>

CATEGORY D : OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS AT THE INTERVIEW

1 Do you enjoy reading periods at school?

2 Do you prefer reading to grammar?

3 Are you exposed to many reading books and material at school?

4 Does your school have a media centre?

5 Do your parents encourage you to read?

6 Your favourite book is

7 Describe your favourite book.

8 What must your favourite book look like inside and outside?

9 Would you approve of a rainbow book with mixed cultures?

10

Would you prefer to read about your own culture rather than about other cultures?

CATEGORY E: Contextual questions

Read the following summaries of stories and answer the questions that follow:

E.1 BFG by Roald Dahl

An imaginative story (A well-known author of children's literature)

The BFG is a very imaginative story about a giant with his own peculiar character. The difference between a giant as we know him from childhood stories is that this giant is a friendly giant and not a cannibal like the rest of the giants mentioned in this story. The BFG is also kindhearted and rescued Sophie, an orphan from the orphanage and won her confidence despite her initial fear of him. The story is captivating in that the giant has a very funny way of using English and Dahl also makes use of funny names for his characters. He also creates his own concepts such as a snozzcumber which is in fact a giant cucumber. He also involves high profile people to attract attention and who are interesting to the majority of readers, such as Sophie's encounter with the queen of England. Virtue (good force) is also seen to triumph over evil and the story has a happy ending. It also contains an element of surprise such as assigning authorship to the giant (BFG).

Book 2: The strange piece of paper by Patricia Sealy.

An Afrocentric story (J.A.W.S. series for children)

This particular story basically deals with the school environment. The setting is the playground and the learners were picking up papers. Suddenly Lesego picked up a red paper which turned out to be a valuable stamp. She handed it over to her teacher who on her part gave it to the museum. Shortly afterwards two men came to inquire about the stamp. They were called Smiler and Scarface. Smiler, a crook tried to get hold of the stamp by being friendly and by kindly asking for the stamp while, Scarface was impatient and pushy. They threatened Lesego to give the stamp to them and they demanded the child to bring it to them the next day in town at the cafe. Lesego and her teacher went to the museum and found that the stamp was indeed valuable and when the crooks turned up, the police were there to take them into custody. The result was that all learners in future were eager to pick up papers on the playground just in case they would pick up a paper.

Book 3: Sherlock Holmes: Short Stories. The speckled band by Conan Doyle.

A detective story (Oxford bookworm series)

This story is a typical detective story involving a few characters viz.: Sherlock Homes, his friend Watson, the complainant Helen, her sister and her stepfather Dr Roylott. Helen and her sister were living with her stepfather. Her stepfather had to take care of her and her sister financially from money left to him by his late wife. Helen's sister would get married and shortly afterwards strange things started happening in the house, such as whistling and funny noises. Her stepfather had his own peculiar way of doing, such as to allow the gypsies on their premises and also extraordinary wild animals. Just before the wedding, her sister died apparently of shock. Helen consulted Mr. Holmes because she remembered the whistling sound the night her sister died and she also started to become suspicious. Holmes and Watson determined that should the girls get married, Dr. Roylott still had to pay them an amount of money every month. He then went to inspect the house and found that Helen's room was being repaired by her stepfather. He then decided to sleep in Helen's room without her father knowing to find out what the funny noises were all about. Then one night the same whistling noises could be heard. Holmes saw a snake coming down the chord of the light hanging across the bed and hit it. The snake went back through a hole in the ceiling and her stepfather died with the speckled band (snake) around his neck. It was then discovered that her sister was bitten by the poisonous snake and that her stepfather actually had plans to get rid of her too. It is quite an entertaining book, playing on one's curiosity and skill to track down the killer oneself.

Eurocentric story

Oliver Twist was brought up in an orphanage since his mother, a beautiful young woman's death. Oliver was wretchedly unhappy and when he was only a few months old he was brought to the parish to be brought up by Mr Bumble a very unreasonable man. One day he was punished for asking a little bit extra food and was sent to the workhouse. Mrs. Mann who had to take care of Oliver and the rest of the kids in the orphanage, used the money for herself and little to feed and clothe the children in her care. Oliver ran away and became involved with Fagin and his gang of criminals who forced him to take part in their treacherous activities. Oliver eventually was taken care of by a very rich man and it was later discovered that he was actually from an aristocratic family. The story is gripping, convincing and realistic and portrays the boy's struggle to overcome obstacles and in the end he was happy again.

1. Which book, judging by the summaries, do you prefer? Motivate your answer (briefly say why)
2. Name your favourite character and motivate your answer.
3. Describe your favourite picture from the summaries and motivate.
4. Comment on your favourite event.
5. What suggestions do you have to improve the illiteracy rate in our country?
6. Do you struggle to read English and briefly say why if so.
7. Rate the books in order of popularity from 1(very popular) to 4 (least popular.)

Name of book	Rating
BFG by Roald	<input type="checkbox"/>
The speckled band by Conan	<input type="checkbox"/>
The strange piece of paper by Patricia Sealy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (A shortened	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Give the name of any of your favourite authors and your favourite books.

CATEGORY F: Extracts

Read the following attached extracts and answer;

Title of book	Author	Date	Ranking
BFG	Roald Dahl	1982	
Maria's movie comeback	Johansson	1994	
Short Stories: Sherlock Holmes	Conan Doyle	1989	
Starpol the spider	Tully	1994	
The artist and Sipho's secret	Turkington	1994	

- 8.1 Rank the stories in terms of popularity from the most popular to the least popular from 1-5 according to titles provided above. (1 will be the book that you like the most) Use the blocks above.
- 8.2 What do you like the most about the specific extract you ranked 1.
- 8.3 Briefly say why you put the book last that you ranked 5.
- 8.4 Do you think culturally familiar concepts influenced your choice of reading?
- 8.5 Which book's illustrations did you like the most?
- 8.6 Which book's font (letter print) do you prefer?
- 8.7 Do you think there are enough books to interest you at your town library?
- 8.8 What advice would you give to convince a non-reader to become a frequent reader?
- 8.9 Would you prefer books in your mother tongue to those in English. (Leave question if your mother tongue is English)
- 8.10 Would you be interested in writing your own stories to publish one day?

THANKS FOR BEING CO-OPERATIVE.