

# Measuring Attitude Toward Reading: Another Tool For Teachers

Marley W. Watkins

A reading attitude survey was recently published by McKenna and Kear in *The Reading Teacher* (1990) and a Spanish language translation was printed in the *Arizona Reading Journal* (1992). This Elementary Reading Attitude Survey (ERAS), scoring criteria, and normative tables were placed into the public domain and provide teachers with a useful tool for exploring the reading attitudes of their students.

Administration of the ERAS is straightforward and requires little time. Scoring is not so quick. Each student's answers to 20 items must be summed into three categories and then percentiles corresponding to each of the three raw score sums must be located in appropriate tables. Classroom averages require summing all raw scores, finding means, and then referring to percentile tables once again. Such intensive usage of tables requires considerable time and may lead to scoring errors (Slate & Chick, 1989; Slate & Jones, 1990). The present paper describes a computer program which automates scoring of the ERAS to reduce scoring time and improve scoring accuracy.

## Language and Computer

The ERAS Analysis program is written in Applesoft BASIC, requires 64K RAM under the DOS 3.3 operating system, and is contained on a single 5.25 inch disk. It is designed to operate on the Apple IIe and Apple IIGS microcomputers. An Image Writer II printer or equivalent is necessary for printing results.

## Input

Data is input from the keyboard into data files which correspond to classrooms. That is, a data file is created and named after the teacher, each child's responses to the 20 ERAS items is typed, and the resultant file is stored on the disk. Input is interactive and allows editing and review of data. Instructions and descriptions are contained on the disk.

## Output

Printed output consists of two pages for each classroom file. Examples of both pages are found in the Appendix. The first page was designed as a validity check and permanent record. Each student's name, grade level, and raw score response to all 20 ERAS items are printed. The second output page presents summary ERAS statistical results for each student as well as the total class. Abbreviations used on this page are explained in Table 1. Standard scores as presented have a mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15. Standard scores were calculated from grade level norms presented by McKenna and Kear (1990) using a formula described by Sattler (1988). Standard scores are produced because percentiles have been demonstrated to be nonnormally distributed and therefore not generally appropriate for other statistical analyses (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983).

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Table 1

Description of Abbreviations used in Analysis of ERAS program output

<u>Output</u>	<u>Description</u>
Re	raw score for Recreational reading attitude
Ac	raw score for Academic reading attitude
To	raw score for Total reading attitude
%Re	percentile rank for Recreational reading attitude
%Ac	percentile rank for Academic reading attitude
%To	percentile rank for Total reading attitude
SS Re	standard score for Recreational reading attitude
SS Ac	standard score for Academic reading attitude
SS To	standard score for Total reading attitude

## Program Availability

The Analysis of ERAS program is available on disk from the author by sending \$10.00 to cover postage, duplication, and media costs. Mail requests to: 511 West Wood Drive; Phoenix, AZ 85029. Requests from outside the United States and purchase orders should include an additional \$5.00 for delivery.

## References

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# Appendix: Elementary Reading Attitude Survey Analysis Output

FILE: MS. ATLAS

Analysis of the Elementary Reading Attitude Survey  
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Name	GL	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AGICULTURE	2	3	2	1	4	4	3	2	1	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	3	1	4	1
ASHLEY	2	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
BROWNLY	2	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4
BOOCEK	2	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4
BROWNLEY	2	4	3	4	3	4	2	3	4	4	1	4	1	1	3	2	4	1	1	2	2
BURROW	2	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4	3	4	4	2	4	1	4	4
CAMPWIEL	2	4	3	4	3	3	4	2	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	3	3
COMKLEY	2	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
BUDDA	2	1	3	2	4	3	3	2	1	4	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
CURIE	2	3	1	4	2	1	2	3	4	2	4	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	4	2
DEEVIDSEN	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	3
DICERNO	2	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	2	2
DIKES	2	4	3	2	1	1	4	2	1	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	4	4	3
FRANKLIN	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
GERRY	2	4	3	1	4	2	4	1	1	4	4	2	3	4	1	3	4	4	1	4	3
HORSEMAN	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
HOOVER	2	1	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	2
LARIET	2	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	1	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	2	3	4
LYIETE	2	4	4	3	4	3	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	3
MCHUGH	2	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	1	4	3	4	1	4	4	4
MCWILLIAMS	2	4	2	1	4	3	4	2	1	4	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	1	1
NILES	2	2	3	1	4	3	4	3	1	4	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	2	1	1
ROMANY	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	1	4	3	3	4	3	1	4	3	3	1	4	1	1
ROOSEVELT	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	4	3	2	1	3	3	1	3	3	4	2	1
SATIRE	2	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	3
WATKINS	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	1

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FILE: MS. ATLAS

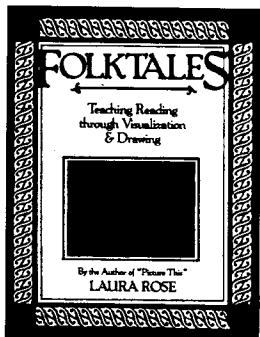
First Name	Last Name	Re	Ac	To	%Re	%Ac	%To	SS Re	SS Ac	SS To
STEVEN	AGICULTURE	26	26	52	25	37	29	89	94	91
JOSH	ASHLEY	33	33	66	68	73	71	107	109	109
AMANDA	BROWNLY	35	36	71	79	85	84	112	116	116
ADAM	BOOCEK	35	36	71	79	85	84	112	116	116
BAILEY	BROWNLEY	35	23	58	79	23	47	112	87	99
MIKE	BURROW	34	30	64	74	57	66	110	103	106
AMBER	CAMPWIEL	35	33	68	79	73	77	112	109	112
TIM	COMKLEY	37	40	77	88	99	94	118	125	124
DAVID	BUDDA	26	13	39	25	1	4	89	65	74
JENNIFER	CURIE	26	18	44	25	6	9	89	76	80
ASHLEY	DEEVIDSEN	38	33	71	92	73	84	120	109	116
NATALIE	DICERNO	36	32	68	84	67	77	115	107	112
KIRA	DIKES	26	35	61	25	81	57	89	114	103
DAVE	FRANKLIN	40	40	80	99	99	99	126	125	128
JUSTIN	GERRY	28	29	57	37	51	45	94	100	97
DAVID	HORSEMAN	38	26	64	92	37	66	120	94	106
LYNETTE	HOOVER	34	33	67	74	73	74	110	109	110
KRISTY	LARIET	35	35	70	79	81	82	112	114	114
BRIANNE	LYIETE	35	36	71	79	85	84	112	116	116
JOHN	MCHUGH	34	31	65	74	62	69	110	105	108
SHANNEN	MCWILLIAMS	28	24	52	37	27	29	94	89	91
ANDREA	NILES	29	27	56	44	41	41	97	96	96
ETHAN	ROMANY	35	27	62	79	41	60	112	96	104
ANDREW	ROOSEVELT	25	23	48	20	23	18	86	87	85
MISTY	SATIRE	30	22	52	50	18	29	99	85	91
KEVIN	WATKINS	40	30	70	99	57	82	126	103	114

MS. ATLAS class averages

Grade	N	Re	Ac	To	%Re	%Ac	%To
Grade 1	N=0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	N=26	33	30	62	68	57	60
Grade 3	N=0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 4	N=0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 5	N=0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grade 6	N=0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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