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The Use of Independent Reading in the Middle School Classroom

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Currently, I am observing in an 8th grade language arts class, where the students I work with like to do the bare minimum to get by in school. The teacher has concerns that the students' reading is not self-motivated. To address this problem, the teacher and I would like to see an independent reading plan be required for the students. The surveys I have developed will ask students, before and after they are reading independently, how prepared they feel for class each day. Also, I will be interviewing the teacher to hear her opinions about the positive and negative aspects of "making" students read independently.

Information about the Author:

Elise Appold is a junior studying middle level education with concentrations in language arts and social studies. She is currently completing observations in 7th and 8th grade literature classes, which is where her interest in independent student reading began. She enjoys tutoring 5th graders each week with VU's Study Buddy program. Elise will fulfill her semester of student teaching in the spring of 2011. After graduation, she hopes to teach 8th grade in a Lutheran grade school.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Del Gillispie

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