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## **Are “reader-friendly” texts always better?**

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### **Abstract**

This study involved 60 participants. 50 % of the participants were identified as normal readers, i.e. they could decode text adequately well, and 50% were identified as poor readers. The participants were exposed to two types of expository texts (1) authentic texts and (2) easy-to-read (“reader-friendly”) texts. Text comprehension was investigated by means of questions relating to the text. There was a significant difference between poor and normal readers when they read the authentic texts. Somewhat surprisingly, the normal readers performed better when reading the authentic texts than the “reader-friendly texts and the poor readers’ comprehension did not increase significantly when reading the “reader-friendly” texts. One reason proposed by the researcher, is that the “reader-friendly” texts were too easy, resulting in the normal readers not finding them challenging enough and the poor readers possibly found them too “childish”.

**Key words:** poor readers, easy-to-read texts, authentic texts, reading comprehension, participation