

Exhibit 3.7: Achievement in Reading Purposes and Comprehension Processes by Gender

At the fourth grade, girls have a greater advantage compared to boys in literary reading than in informational reading. Exhibit 3.7 shows that girls had higher average achievement than boys in literary reading in 48 of the 50 PIRLS countries—all except two where reading achievement was similar for girls and boys. In informational reading, achievement was similar for girls and boys in 12 countries (although girls had higher achievement in the rest). They have a similar advantage in the two comprehension processes—higher reading achievement than boys in retrieving and straightforward inferencing in 47 countries and in interpreting, integrating, and evaluating in 48 countries. Boys did not have higher achievement than girls for either comprehension process.

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Country	Reading Purposes				Comprehension Processes			
	Literary		Informational		Retrieving and Straightforward Inferencing		Interpreting, Integrating, and Evaluating	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Australia	561 (2.7) ▲	533 (2.9)	552 (2.7) ●	533 (2.9)	552 (2.7) ●	530 (3.0)	561 (2.6) ●	538 (2.7)
² Austria	550 (2.6) ▲	539 (2.6)	540 (2.9)	538 (2.9)	552 (3.1)	549 (3.3)	539 (2.5) ●	530 (3.3)
Azerbaijan	472 (4.1) ▲	460 (4.2)	485 (4.7) ●	471 (5.2)	484 (4.4) ●	471 (4.5)	472 (4.5) ●	458 (4.7)
Bahrain	462 (3.5) ▲	413 (4.0)	472 (2.6) ●	434 (3.4)	464 (2.8) ●	425 (3.6)	469 (3.3) ●	422 (3.8)
Belgium (Flemish)	530 (2.3) ▲	517 (2.5)	529 (2.3) ●	522 (2.2)	529 (2.4)	522 (2.5)	529 (2.3) ●	519 (2.5)
² Belgium (French)	512 (2.6) ▲	496 (2.6)	494 (2.9) ●	486 (2.8)	506 (2.5) ●	496 (3.0)	500 (2.5) ●	488 (3.1)
Bulgaria	561 (5.2) ▲	542 (4.6)	561 (4.6) ●	547 (4.5)	557 (4.5) ●	544 (4.2)	560 (4.9) ●	545 (4.3)
^{1 2} Canada	556 (2.3) ▲	538 (2.1)	543 (2.5) ●	537 (2.1)	546 (2.2) ●	537 (1.9)	552 (2.2) ●	539 (2.1)
Chile	511 (2.8) ▲	491 (3.6)	490 (3.0) ●	481 (3.7)	502 (2.9) ●	490 (3.3)	500 (3.3) ●	483 (3.9)
Chinese Taipei	555 (2.4) ▲	543 (2.2)	570 (2.7)	568 (2.3)	565 (2.5) ●	555 (2.0)	562 (2.4) ●	555 (2.7)
Czech Republic	554 (2.3) ▲	536 (2.6)	544 (2.3)	538 (3.1)	556 (2.5) ●	546 (2.9)	544 (2.6) ●	532 (2.5)
² Denmark	560 (2.6) ▲	542 (2.7)	548 (3.0) ●	539 (2.9)	556 (2.7) ●	544 (2.6)	552 (2.6) ●	539 (2.7)
Egypt	348 (5.4) ▲	308 (6.6)	350 (5.6) ●	314 (7.0)	347 (5.5) ●	311 (6.6)	359 (5.8) ●	321 (6.6)
England	572 (2.7) ▲	553 (2.5)	562 (2.6) ●	551 (2.7)	563 (2.4) ●	549 (2.5)	569 (2.4) ●	554 (2.3)
Finland	576 (2.0) ▲	554 (2.4)	579 (2.1) ●	559 (2.6)	582 (2.3) ●	562 (2.6)	573 (2.0) ●	552 (2.3)
France	518 (2.9) ▲	507 (2.8)	513 (2.8)	508 (2.9)	524 (2.8) ●	517 (2.6)	506 (2.9) ●	496 (3.1)
¹ Georgia	501 (2.5) ▲	479 (3.5)	495 (3.1) ●	478 (4.1)	495 (2.6) ●	477 (3.3)	501 (2.7) ●	479 (3.8)
Germany	551 (3.5) ▲	534 (3.8)	536 (3.6)	530 (3.8)	550 (3.5) ●	541 (3.8)	537 (3.5) ●	524 (3.8)
^{2 †} Hong Kong SAR	569 (3.3) ▲	557 (3.7)	580 (3.1)	573 (3.3)	571 (2.9) ●	565 (3.3)	574 (3.1) ●	563 (3.3)
Hungary	566 (3.4) ▲	549 (3.1)	555 (3.9) ●	547 (3.5)	558 (3.7) ●	545 (3.5)	563 (3.5) ●	550 (3.2)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	457 (4.6) ▲	407 (5.1)	446 (4.5) ●	406 (5.0)	454 (4.6) ●	408 (5.1)	450 (4.8) ●	403 (5.1)
Ireland	580 (3.2) ▲	563 (3.4)	569 (3.2) ●	561 (3.4)	571 (3.2) ●	561 (3.5)	576 (3.4) ●	562 (3.6)
³ Israel	541 (3.4) ▲	523 (3.8)	533 (3.0)	525 (3.4)	536 (2.8) ●	523 (3.4)	537 (3.2) ●	523 (3.6)
Italy	554 (2.4) ▲	543 (2.8)	551 (2.7)	547 (2.6)	550 (2.3) ●	544 (2.8)	554 (2.4) ●	545 (2.4)
Kazakhstan	535 (3.0) ▲	520 (2.6)	547 (3.1) ●	540 (3.0)	534 (2.9) ●	525 (2.8)	548 (3.0) ●	537 (2.5)
Kuwait	405 (4.9) ▲	370 (6.6)	415 (5.0) ●	381 (6.9)	410 (4.7) ●	377 (6.5)	406 (5.2) ●	369 (6.7)
² Latvia	565 (2.2) ▲	545 (2.1)	569 (2.3) ●	553 (2.1)	562 (2.3) ●	546 (2.5)	571 (2.1) ●	553 (1.9)
Lithuania	558 (2.9) ▲	536 (3.1)	561 (2.9) ●	541 (3.1)	560 (2.7) ●	539 (3.0)	558 (2.7) ●	537 (3.0)
Macao SAR	538 (2.3)	534 (2.0)	555 (1.8)	556 (1.6)	548 (1.8)	550 (1.4)	544 (2.2)	542 (1.8)
² Malta	466 (3.0) ▲	439 (2.2)	461 (2.5) ●	443 (2.6)	463 (2.5) ●	441 (2.3)	462 (2.9) ●	441 (2.1)
Morocco	369 (4.3) ▲	338 (4.4)	372 (4.3) ●	346 (4.3)	378 (4.0) ●	350 (4.4)	352 (4.6) ●	321 (5.2)
[†] Netherlands	553 (1.8) ▲	539 (2.4)	549 (2.4) ●	540 (2.6)	551 (2.6) ●	542 (2.3)	550 (1.8) ●	538 (2.3)
New Zealand	539 (2.5) ▲	512 (3.0)	528 (2.9) ●	512 (3.4)	530 (2.5) ●	512 (3.1)	536 (2.8) ●	513 (2.9)
Northern Ireland	582 (3.0) ▲	559 (3.1)	569 (3.1) ●	552 (3.3)	570 (2.6) ●	553 (3.0)	577 (2.6) ●	558 (3.0)
Norway (5)	571 (2.7) ▲	550 (3.2)	568 (2.8) ●	549 (2.9)	570 (2.7) ●	553 (3.0)	568 (2.8) ●	548 (2.5)
Oman	434 (3.4) ▲	387 (3.8)	448 (3.3) ●	403 (3.9)	442 (3.1) ●	397 (3.9)	439 (3.6) ●	391 (4.2)
Poland	577 (2.4) ▲	556 (2.8)	573 (2.9) ●	556 (3.1)	568 (2.6) ●	551 (2.6)	580 (2.7) ●	559 (2.8)
² Portugal	529 (2.8)	527 (2.8)	527 (2.9)	529 (2.7)	527 (2.6)	528 (2.6)	528 (2.8)	525 (2.8)
Qatar	453 (2.3) ▲	415 (3.8)	466 (2.0) ●	433 (3.8)	460 (2.0) ●	424 (3.4)	458 (2.2) ●	423 (3.4)
Russian Federation	587 (2.5) ▲	572 (2.5)	591 (2.8) ●	578 (2.7)	588 (2.5) ●	575 (2.8)	589 (2.4) ●	575 (2.6)
Saudi Arabia	461 (5.1) ▲	401 (5.7)	465 (5.8) ●	395 (6.5)	458 (5.4) ●	395 (5.7)	472 (5.5) ●	408 (5.8)
³ Singapore	586 (3.6) ▲	563 (3.7)	586 (3.5) ●	571 (3.7)	580 (3.4) ●	566 (3.6)	589 (3.4) ●	568 (3.4)
Slovak Republic	545 (3.6) ▲	533 (3.1)	535 (3.6) ●	528 (3.2)	542 (3.4) ●	533 (3.3)	538 (3.4) ●	525 (3.6)
Slovenia	552 (2.9) ▲	531 (2.8)	552 (2.6) ●	536 (2.6)	554 (2.7) ●	539 (2.8)	550 (3.1) ●	529 (2.8)
South Africa	352 (4.2) ▲	296 (5.5)	340 (4.0) ●	290 (5.2)	348 (4.1) ●	297 (5.1)	338 (5.4) ●	281 (5.8)
Spain	536 (1.7) ▲	524 (2.9)	529 (1.5)	525 (2.4)	530 (1.5) ●	523 (2.5)	534 (1.5) ●	525 (2.7)
Sweden	564 (2.7) ▲	548 (2.7)	562 (3.3) ●	548 (2.8)	566 (3.1) ●	555 (3.0)	562 (2.7) ●	544 (2.8)
Trinidad and Tobago	489 (4.0) ▲	466 (4.5)	490 (3.8) ●	469 (4.7)	495 (4.1) ●	471 (4.6)	482 (4.2) ●	461 (4.9)
United Arab Emirates	456 (4.2) ▲	425 (4.6)	474 (4.2) ●	446 (4.6)	463 (4.1) ●	434 (4.5)	468 (4.3) ●	438 (4.5)
[†] United States	563 (3.5) ▲	552 (3.5)	546 (3.2)	540 (3.7)	547 (3.1) ●	539 (3.5)	559 (3.3) ●	551 (3.5)
International Avg.	522 (0.5) ▲	499 (0.5)	519 (0.5) ●	503 (0.5)	520 (0.4) ●	503 (0.5)	520 (0.5) ●	500 (0.5)

▲ Average significantly higher than other gender

See Appendix C.1 for target population coverage notes 1, 2, and 3. See Appendix C.4 for sampling guidelines and sampling participation notes †, ‡, and ≡.
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

Exhibit 3.7: Achievement in Reading Purposes and Comprehension Processes by Gender (Continued)

Country	Reading Purposes				Comprehension Processes				
	Literary		Informational		Retrieving and Straightforward Inferencing		Interpreting, Integrating, and Evaluating		
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	
Benchmarking Participants									
Buenos Aires, Argentina	491 (3.7) ⬆	477 (3.3)	477 (3.8)	473 (3.5)	487 (3.4) ⬆	479 (3.1)	478 (4.2) ⬆	468 (4.1)	
Ontario, Canada	558 (3.8) ⬆	540 (4.0)	543 (4.0)	536 (4.0)	544 (3.7) ⬆	534 (3.7)	555 (3.5) ⬆	542 (3.7)	
≡ Quebec, Canada	558 (3.2) ⬆	540 (3.3)	549 (3.5)	544 (3.3)	555 (3.4) ⬆	546 (3.3)	551 (3.4) ⬆	538 (3.3)	
² Denmark (3)	516 (3.5) ⬆	494 (2.8)	506 (3.3) ⬆	490 (2.8)	511 (3.1) ⬆	489 (2.9)	510 (3.3) ⬆	497 (2.8)	
Norway (4)	531 (2.6) ⬆	510 (2.3)	520 (2.8) ⬆	508 (2.2)	530 (2.8) ⬆	513 (2.2)	521 (2.4) ⬆	504 (2.0)	
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	624 (2.6) ⬆	603 (2.4)	620 (2.6) ⬆	606 (3.0)	620 (2.2) ⬆	603 (3.2)	622 (2.4) ⬆	606 (2.4)	
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5)	418 (6.2) ⬆	386 (6.9)	421 (6.0) ⬆	393 (6.5)	421 (6.1) ⬆	393 (6.6)	417 (5.9) ⬆	383 (7.1)	
Andalusia, Spain	529 (2.8) ⬆	522 (2.4)	523 (2.9)	524 (2.4)	523 (2.6)	521 (2.1)	529 (3.3)	525 (2.2)	
² Madrid, Spain	556 (2.7) ⬆	545 (2.7)	550 (2.5)	548 (2.6)	549 (2.4)	544 (2.5)	554 (2.3) ⬆	546 (2.6)	
Abu Dhabi, UAE	428 (7.2) ⬆	386 (6.6)	443 (7.3) ⬆	404 (7.1)	433 (7.1) ⬆	395 (6.3)	438 (7.3) ⬆	398 (6.3)	
Dubai, UAE	516 (3.8) ⬆	501 (3.1)	529 (3.8) ⬆	518 (2.7)	518 (3.8) ⬆	506 (3.2)	526 (3.5) ⬆	512 (2.9)	

⬆ Average significantly higher than other gender

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