



Children's and Young People's Reading and Writing of Comedy in 2015

June 2016

In April 2016, the National Literacy Trust supported the BBC to launch *Comedy Classroom* – a comedy writing competition for pupils aged 13 to 15.

Ahead of the launch, a few questions were included in the National Literacy Trust's annual literacy survey of children and young people to gather some general information on their comedy consumption in 2015.

The following findings are based on responses from 24,972 8 to 16-year-olds who participated in the National Literacy Trust's annual literacy survey in November / December 2015.

Reading comedy outside class

- A third (33.4%) of children and young people say that they read comedy outside class at least once a month
- More boys than girls read comedy outside class at least once a month (38.4% vs. 29.1%)
- More pupils aged 8 to 11 (KS2) and those aged 11 to 14 (KS3) than pupils aged 14 to 16 (KS4) read comedy outside class at least once a month (32.2% vs. 35.4% vs. 24.1%)
- There was no significant difference in the percentage of pupils who read comedy outside class by socio-economic background as measured by free school meal (FSM) uptake (FSM: 34.0%; non-FSM: 33.4%)

Writing comedy outside class

- 13.0% of children and young people say that they write comedy outside class at least once a month
- Nearly twice as many boys as girls say that they write comedy outside class (16.5% vs. 9.9%)
- More pupils aged 8 to 11 (KS2) than pupils aged 11 to 14 (KS3) or pupils aged 14 to 16 (KS4) write comedy outside class (18.3% vs. 12.8% vs. 7.4%)
- More pupils who receive free school meals than those who do not get meals say that they write comedy at least once a month outside class (16.0% vs. 12.2%)