

The Reading Tree (Romania)

The Reading Tree project implemented in this school was initiated by a Romanian teacher and inspired by an activity presented within the course “Reading Techniques”, a course developed and carried out by ANPRO (*The Association of the Teachers of Romanian Language and Literature*). The project aimed at encouraging students to choose their own texts for reading and those they wished to order. The teachers were encouragers and supporters of students in their search for and choice of books. The texts students read to participate in The Reading Tree project belonged to the literary style.

The Reading Tree project was an activity meant to attract students to participate voluntarily, centering the attention on the readers and their interests. The students were only given the framework for the activity and told the rules of the competition. The students, who participated actively, were really intrinsically motivated and rediscovered the pleasure of reading. Another motivating aspect was that they were able to recommend the books they read which they perceived as rewarding: motivating other students to read the books they have enjoyed.

The students devised a gigantic cardboard tree and cut out apples and leaves. They wrote the titles of their favourite books on the apples, the recommendations for those books (on green leaves) and their appraisals of the characters (on yellow leaves).

The students who participated in this project were from the lower-secondary school (years 5–8). The project was carried out for a period of two months.

Some students who participated in The Reading Tree project have admitted that:

- They were already used to reading and became motivated to share what they read and started to read even more.
- They have improved their reading speed due to the competitive atmosphere of the contest.
- They learned about new books.
- The tree was fun to devise and decorate (an idea for a future project is to decorate a garden with flowers)

The diagnosis regarding the Reading Tree project consisted of a complex analysis of the books the children read. The questionnaire put out at the end of the project revealed the students’ motivation to read some of the books and recommend other books.

The school librarian, as a promoter of various reading activities in school, was a great supporter of this project and offered students a pretty wide range of materials from the school library.

The Reading Tree project has motivated students to read more and the students themselves have become motivators for other students.