

LEARNING STYLE INVENTORY RESOURCES

Learning style inventories are available as online or paper-and-pencil surveys. Advise students that they may find two equally appealing answers, but they can choose only one answer.

Typical abbreviations on learning style inventories are **V = Visual**, **A = Auditory**, and **K = Kinesthetic**. For many students, one learning style will emerge more strongly than the others. Encourage students to write down their results.

Online Inventories

Online inventories are self-scoring, so students receive immediate feedback. None of the following has audio, so very young readers may need assistance from an adult.

1. One colorful and simple inventory that can be printed or taken online is available at http://www.brainboxx.co.uk/a3_aspects/pages/VAK_quest.htm. Students count the colors to get their results.
2. A simple, 16-question, multiple-choice learning style inventory at <http://people.usd.edu/~bwjames/tut/learning-style/stylest.html> gives results for all three learning styles.
3. The 24-question, multiple-choice inventory at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/bxb11/LSI/LSI.htm> may be more appropriate for older students and reports only the primary learning style.
4. The inventory at <http://ttc.coe.uga.edu/surveys/LearningStyleInv.html> is a check-off list.

Pencil-and-paper inventories

1. The brainboxx site listed as #1 above is also a printable: http://www.brainboxx.co.uk/a3_aspects/pages/VAK_quest.htm.
2. This chart, <http://www.chaminade.org/inspire/learnstl.htm>, has learning style headings above each column. Students circle or check their choices.
3. This inventory, <http://www.uu.edu/programs/tesl/elementaryschool/learningstylesinventory.htm>, was written for elementary students, although vocabulary may still be advanced for younger students.



SAMPLE INTEREST INVENTORY

1. Of the types of reading materials you can get from a library, what are your preferences? Draw a circle next to your top two favorites, and a checkmark next to anything else you like.

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fiction books | <input type="checkbox"/> reference books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nonfiction books | <input type="checkbox"/> poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> plays or drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> audio books | <input type="checkbox"/> graphic novels/comics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pamphlets/brochures | |

2. What topics do you most enjoy reading about? Draw a circle next to your top two favorites, and a checkmark next to anything else you like.

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> history | <input type="checkbox"/> adventure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sports | <input type="checkbox"/> science books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> love | <input type="checkbox"/> westerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> video games | <input type="checkbox"/> drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peoples' lives | <input type="checkbox"/> crafts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comic books/jokes | <input type="checkbox"/> animals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mysteries/detectives | <input type="checkbox"/> world records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> travel/other countries | <input type="checkbox"/> space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> science fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> scary stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cars/trucks | <input type="checkbox"/> TV shows/movies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> folktales/fables | <input type="checkbox"/> maps/charts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> magic | <input type="checkbox"/> math |
| <input type="checkbox"/> war stories | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |



3. What kind of characters do you prefer? Choose one or two favorites.

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> kids about my age | <input type="checkbox"/> superheroes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aliens | <input type="checkbox"/> real people from nonfiction books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animals | <input type="checkbox"/> TV or movie characters |

4. What are the best two things you have ever read or had read to you?

5. If you have a favorite author, who is it?

6. How do you prefer to experience reading? Draw a circle next to your top two favorites, and a checkmark next to anything else you like.

I like...

| |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> being read to by someone else |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading silently to myself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading the same material as someone else so we can talk about it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading aloud to someone else |
| <input type="checkbox"/> listening to a tape and following along |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading aloud with a partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please describe) _____ |

SOURCES FOR BOOK IDEAS

Book Lists and Searchable Databases

- Teacher Book Wizard (<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/homePage.do>): Provided by Scholastic, this site not only offers multiple ways to search for books, but the “search alike” feature enables you to put in a book title and find similar titles at the same, higher, or lower reading level.
- Reading Rockets (<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/booksbytheme>): A website focused on providing help for reaching readers who are struggling, Reading Rockets has booklists for children up to age 9.
- Book Adventure (<http://www.bookadventure.com/qt/booklist.asp>): A reading motivation site sponsored by Sylvan Learning, Book Adventure provides a searchable database of books, each of which has quizzes available for students to earn points for reading.
- A Lexile Framework (<http://fab.lexile.com/findabook/>): A searchable database of books searchable by lexile or interest.
- Books for Boys (<http://talestoldtall.com/B4B.html>): Michael Sullivan, teacher and librarian, has compiled lists of books that boys might like.
- Native American Books (<http://www.nea.org/grants/29498.htm>): NEA offers a list of books about or written by Native Americans that is sorted into three categories: K-4, 5-8 and grade 9 and up.
- A Learning Experience (<http://newsletter.schoolbox.com/2010/03/10/books-for-reluctant-readers-part-i-kindergarten-second-grade/>), an online publication, provides lists for reluctant readers in grade level categories: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Links for parts II-IV are on the page listed above.
- A blog by Pragmatic Mom identifies books that her mom friends have found successful with reluctant-to-read boys (<http://www.pragmaticmom.com/?p=116>).
- Sidekicks (<http://noflyingnights.com/sidekicks/>): lists and reviews graphic novels appropriate for the elementary level.
- Listmania is a search category at Amazon.com. Teachers, parents, and other readers have compiled lists of books for almost any grade and/or interest level.

Author sites

The following sites may help young readers identify and get to know authors and titles that they like:

- KidsReads.com (<http://www.kidsreads.com/authors/authors.asp>), which is part of The Book Report Network, provides simple write-ups on many children’s authors.
- Spectacular Authors’ Websites (<http://readkiddoread.ning.com/page/68-spectacular-author-and>) is part of author James Patterson’s Read Kiddo Read website.
- Scholastic Authors (<http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/ab/biolist.htm>) has links to interviews and biographies for many children’s authors in its Librarian section.

