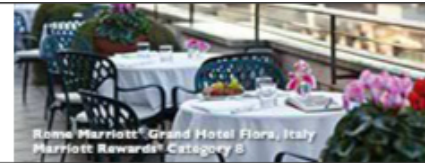


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Nov 02, 2007 00:00 | By **Bob Roberts**

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£500 million spent on trying to improve the standard of reading in primary schools has made little difference, a report by experts said last night.

Researchers found children have even lost their love of books thanks to the increasing stress they are under to pass tests at such a young age.

The Primary Review report also warned the system could be giving a third of youngsters the wrong grades.



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Paper author Professor Peter Tymms of Durham University said: "Half a billion pounds was spent on the National Literacy Strategy with almost no impact on reading levels." National Union of Teachers leader Steve Sinnott urged the Government to axe the testing system. He added: "Its only effect seems to be to create stress for pupils and teachers."

But Schools Minister Lord Adonis insisted primary reading standards were "at their highest level ever".

The NLS introduced daily English lessons. But the report said the system is now more about preparing pupils for tests than enjoyable learning.

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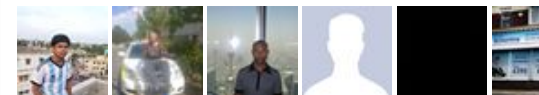
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