

The Study of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic

August 29, 2014



In many parts of the world, September ushers in the start of a new academic year. Students in countries from China to Iran to the United States are heading back to school, embarking on a new year of reading classic literature, solving complex math problems, learning science, and writing essays and term papers.

In recognition of this important time of year, the *Observer* presents a special feature section focused on the science of learning. Our coverage includes the latest psychological research on the proverbial “three Rs” (Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic). We showcase research demonstrating the influence that literature can have on social skills, the importance of handwriting for memory and intellectual development, and the role that neurological activity plays in math anxiety.

- [Literary Character: Researchers Test Fiction as a Foundation for Empathy and Social Skills](#)
- [Getting It in Writing](#)
- [Nervous About Numbers: Brain Patterns Reflect Math Anxiety](#)