SCRIPT 1 – The Popularity of Reading

CUE: Hello. A recent study from the Waterstones Children’s Laureate has shown that only three out of ten young people pick up a book outside of a school classroom. It has also shown that a fifth of young people would be embarrassed if a friend saw them reading. P1 and P2 report on the popularity of reading.

PRESENTER 1: Here, between the bookcases of our school-library, you wouldn’t think teenagers were no longer picking up books. As many people have said, nothing can be compared to a good book; or, at least that was what people used to say. From the likes of Enid Blyton to Roald Dahl, and Suzanne Collins to John Green, for decades authors have been able to transport their readers to various different places, and let them escape the world around them.

PRESENTER 2: While some have found themselves in the Hunger Games and others at Hogwarts, this type of past-time is clearly not as popular as it used to be. With the latest iPads and iPhones providing an instant-reward, young people are picking these up instead. Books can take days, or even weeks to read, a much longer task than picking up a phone and playing Flappy Bird.

PRESENTER 1: The study not only found out that less than half of young people read outside of the classroom, but it also shows that the ones who do read prefer to hide it.

PRESENTER 2: Reading is seen as un-cool, and stereotypically something nerds and geeks do as a past-time. Due to the Media, this stereotype is seen often, and is one of the reasons young people prefer to not talk about reading; or not read at all.

PRESENTER 1: There never used to be as much of a stigma, or as much of a selection. Now, reading has competition. Even though many young people do continue to enjoy books, just look at the success of series’ such as ‘Harry Potter’ and ‘The Twilight Saga,’ it is still seen as a shock when somebody admits to liking this hobby.

PRESENTER 2: Due to this study, it is thought that more young people need to be introduced to reading – and choosing their own books.

PRESENTER 1: A current trend is that young people, teenagers especially, judge all books on the ones that they study in school, that range from Harper Lee’s ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ to John Steinbeck’s ‘Of Mice and Men.’ Of course, some love these, while others find that they don’t capture their attention.

PRESENTER 2: With events such as World Book Day recently, there are a lot of current campaigns to get young people to pick up a book. Teachers here dressed up as everyone from Harry Potter and Katniss Everdeen – one even coming along as Tinkerbell. Of course, there is also the YALC – London’s first Young Adult Literature Convention being held in London this summer.

PRESENTER 2: Our fellow news-reporters got the chance to sit down with best-selling author Bryce Thomas, who is known for his books including ‘Rhamin’ and ‘Blue Tooth’ to ask him a few questions.

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