

ABSTRACT

Investigating the Psyche of the Reading Challenged Adolescent: A Phenomenological Case Study

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This phenomenological case study sought to investigate the psyche/mental state of struggling adolescent readers (SARs) in a rural secondary school in South Trinidad. Data were collected through interviews with two male and two female adolescent students, as well as through observations. The findings revealed that SARs are generally afflicted with troubled psyches or mental states, and that this is compounded for those who lack supportive family backgrounds. It also revealed that although they may try to maintain a positive outlook, their psyches impact negatively on their attitude to, and their attempts at, learning, and they thus typically gravitate to negative behaviours.

Keywords: Struggling readers; Case studies; Adolescents; Secondary school students; Psychology of education; Rural schools; Student attitudes; Trinidad and Tobago