

## popular fiction books and their impact on students' reading performances

## 1. What is this about?

**Aim:** Further insights into the relationship of students' reading habits and their reading comprehension skill

- last 3 printed books read in leisure time
- last 3 e-books read in leisure time
- frequency of reading literature in leisure time
- language preference for reading

### Competencies assessed in ÉpStan (G7 & G9):

- German reading comprehension
- French reading comprehension
- Mathematics (German or French)

## Key findings from previous surveys:

- Many G7 students (43%) and the majority of G9 students (58%) prefer digital reading activities on social media over classical reading activities (reception of printed text).

- Reading social media has a positive impact on students' reading competencies, as it is one way of language contact / read practice.

- But the strongest positive impact exerts the reception of „classic" literary texts.

### 3.1 differing text features

[illegible]

- By default: 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrator
- Written standard language: long & complex sentences, precise description of context information (e.g., background knowledge about the fictional world the story takes place in)
  - > high information density
- Accompanied by elements of spoken language (literal speech)
- Exclusively text based narration, structured by chapters, headlines and paragraphs.

[illegible]

- 1<sup>st</sup> person narrator, who is part of the fictional world
- Very colloquial literal speech with many idiomatic phrases ("Aus'm Weg, ihr Pimpfe!"), but also complex syntactical structures and long sentences
- Literal speech only as a part of images
- "Key words" and literal speech always in capital letters, as a replacement for intonation
- Hybrid mixture of drawings and text: Images support text content, they illustrate what has been written before!

- No real narrative voice, but an image-based scenery with short dialogues and minimal context information
- great variety of onomatopoeica ("written sound effects"): about 7% of written content (p.1-10)
- structured by standardized reading flow (Japanese) & guiding text elements (e.g., sentences, split up on two or more images)
- Text elements in capital letters only
- image based narration, but text essential for understanding: text and image both transport crucial information!

## 2. Key findings

**Novels:** Students read international best sellers (they know from the movies?) and/or fiction books they probably read in classes

Graphic-Novels and Mangas: predominating in G7, but not in G9: Why?

- a) images provide support for younger students?
- b) G9 students mostly indicate school books (=novels)?

**3 different sub-types of fiction books** with a differing relationship between text and image elements were identified:

- **Novel:** text based narrations (like Harry Potter)
- **Graphic-Novel:** hybrid mixture of drawings & text (like GT)
- **Manga:** image-based narrations (like Naruto / Boruto)

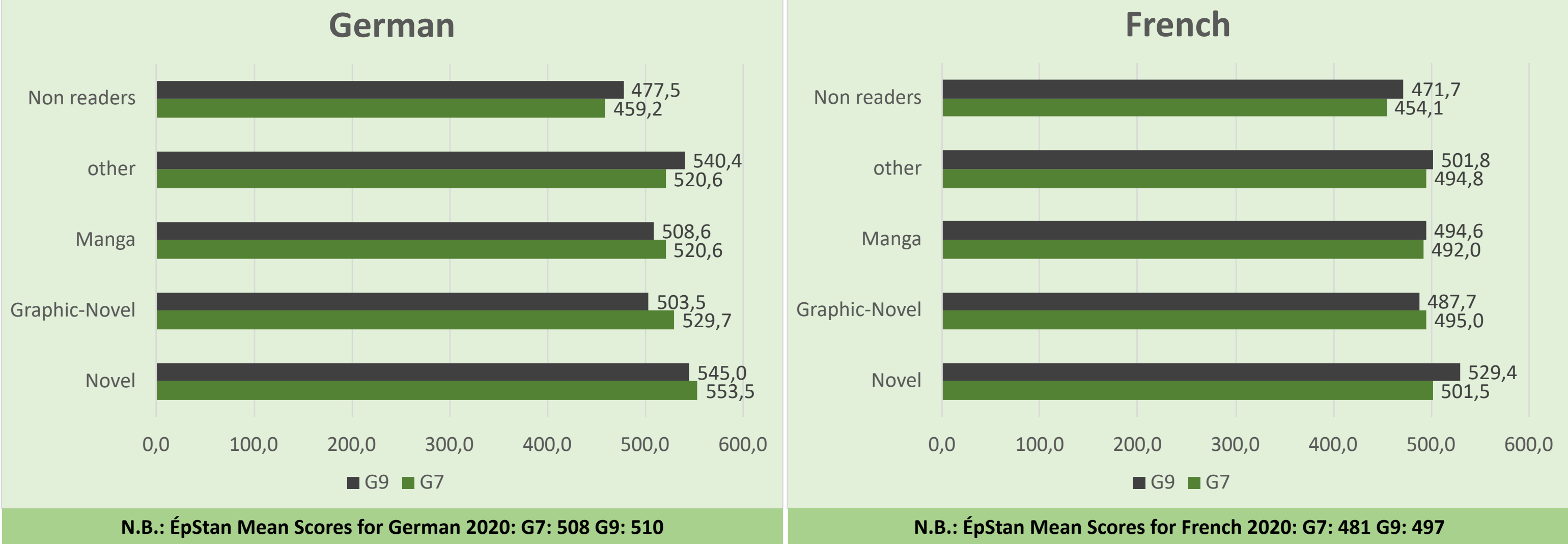
## E-books:

Most striking finding: students don't read on e-books. (G7: 64%, G9: 83%)

### Top 10 series and book titles (fiction and non-fiction)

Printed books_G7				Printed books_G9			
	SERIES or BOOK TITLE	Text type	N (total)		SERIES or BOOK TITLE	Text type	N (total)
1.	Gregs Tagebuch	Graphic- Novel	447		Harry Potter	Novel	451
2.	Harry Potter	Novel	318		Gregs Tagebuch	Graphic- Novel	363
3.	Naruto / Boruto	Manga	115		Tschick	Novel	177
4.	Hexenfieber	Novel	80		Frères de Sang	Novel	159
5.	LTB/ Donald Duck	Manga	76		Novemberschnee	Novel	146
6.	Die drei ???	Novel	73		After series	Novel	142
7.	Tom Gates	Graphic- Novel	70		Was wir dachten, was wir taten	Novel	120
8.	Mein Lotta Leben	Graphic- Novel	61		Naruto / Boruto	Manga	94
9.	Schattenkinder	Novel	46		Schattenkinder	Novel	67
10.	Dragonball	Manga	34		Zebraland	Novel	63
TOTAL			1320	TOTAL			1782

### 3.2 Most popular text types and ÉpStan score (t-test: p-value < 0.05)



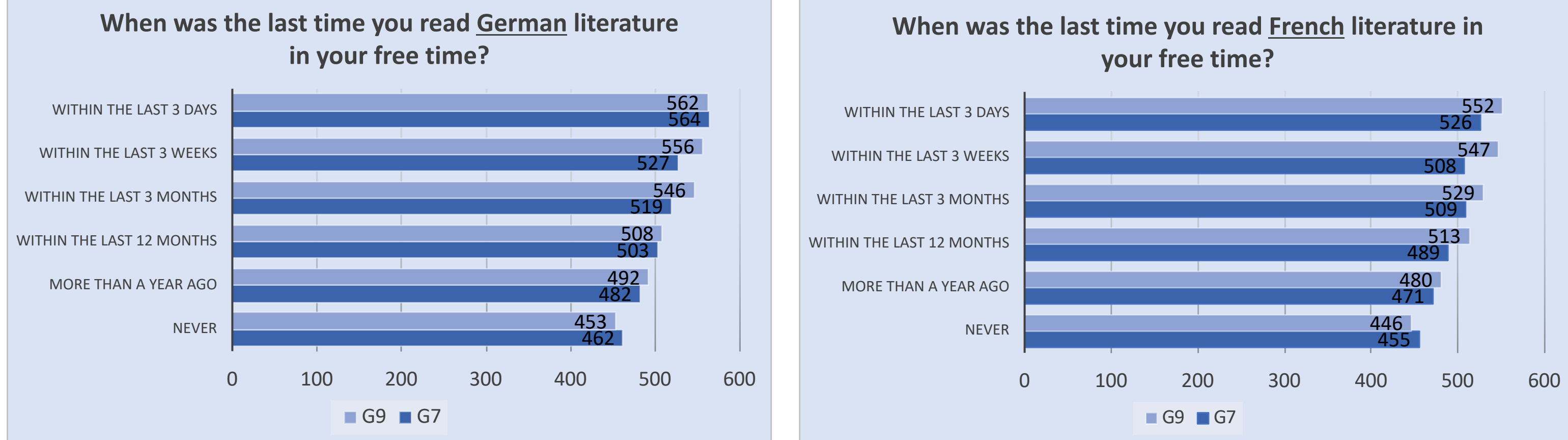
### 3.3. Word count (pages 1-10)

Text type	Title	German	French
Novel	Harry Potter 1	2784	3135
Graphic-Novel	Gregs TB 1	921	1084
Manga	Boruto 1	146	159

**3.4 % of narrative text & literal speech**  
**GERMAN (pages 1-10)**

Title	narrated	literal speech	sounds
Harry Potter 1	88,70%	11,30%	-
Gregs TB 1	92,50%	7,20%	0,43%
Boruto 1	65,80%	26%	8,20%

#### 4. Outlook: ÉpStan Score and reading frequency



**Want to see more? A paper is in preparation and will be published in 2023.  
Contact details: [charlotte.kraemer@uni.lu](mailto:charlotte.kraemer@uni.lu)**