

Carrie McLaren, Parent

"My son is in second grade, and while we love his teacher, we are concerned that the written work his class is expected to do is turning him off of both reading and writing. Much of the writing focuses on asking the kids to analyze the books they're reading. Even though my son likes to read, "testing" him on his comprehension at this age makes the whole endeavor joyless. Many of his classmates--all above-average readers--feel the same way, and our cohort of parents are constantly complaining about tears over homework. (A friend whose son is the same age at another school-- a boy reading a full 2 grade levels ahead--has literally stopped writing and refuses to answer questions about the books he loves.)

We want our son to be challenged, certainly, but not in this way. He has so much more to say, and writes clearly and with great imagination when given creative license. If NY wants more college- and career-ready kids, how about trying NOT turning them off school at such a young age?"