Reading interests and reading preferences among school students have not been much researched in Kazakhstan. Teachers today often complain that school students read less. Students show low interest to school reading assignments and thus the teachers assume that students do not read other literature. The study explores the reading preferences of middle school students, the motivations behind their reading, and their attitudes towards reading. Analysis was carried out on 250 responses of middle school students, ranging from fifth to ninth grades. The findings of the study reveal that the majority of the middle-school students do not have any interest in their school reading. Moreover, they are not motivated to read for school. As for their reading preferences, they are different depending on the students' age. The findings are similar to findings from other studies of children’s reading preferences. The results of the study provide the basis for further study, as well as food for thought about broadening the assortment of reading materials for middle school students.

Keywords: reading, reading literacy, reading habits, middle school students