READSC
This is the student’s estimated score on a reading test. Since I do not have the actual test items, I am assuming that the items used in this test are appropriate and do a good job of measuring student reading ability.

FAMINC2
This variable is based on a questionnaire filled out by the student’s parent or guardian. Parents were asked their total family income.

In the data I have, this information was recoded into categories. Based on the categories, I have assigned each observation the middle of the income range for their income category. For example, those with income between $1000 and $2999 were assigned an income of $2000. This approximation allows me to treat income as both continuous and categorical.

HOMEREAD
This is a measure of what sort of material related to reading students are exposed to in their homes, based on student reports. Students responded yes or no to three items:

35. Which of the following does your family have in your home? (MARK ONE EACH)
   BYS35B   A daily newspaper
   BYS35D   An encyclopedia
   BYS35M   More than 50 books

They received a score of 1 for each affirmative response and 0 for each negative response. These scores were summed to create the variable HOMEREAD.

Though HOMEREAD does not capture all the reading resources in a student’s home, it does capture some of the most common ones (newspapers, encyclopedias and books). It does not, however, speak to whether or not students use these resources, nor do we know
the quality of the resources. For example, books could be comic books, statistics texts, or Russian novels. Still, I expect that the availability of resources will be a limiting aspect of the home environment. Though we cannot be sure students in resource-rich homes actually take advantage of these resources, we can be confident that students without reading resources in their homes are less likely to use those resources.

**COMPUTER**

This is a yes/no indicator for whether or not there is a personal computers in the student’s home, reported by the student. It is subject to the same cautions as those described above for reading resources, and comes from the same series of items.

35. Which of the following does your family have in your home?
(MARK ONE EACH)

BYS35H Computer