

# the **fleet sheet's final word**

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## Mass Effect 3 and the art of reading

A survey by Scio found that half of boys at Czech high schools have trouble getting through a single book in two months, while the same applies to one-fourth of the girls. This matches the results of the OECD's [PISA study](#), which found that Czech schoolchildren are among the worst in the world in terms of reading for pleasure, along with such brainy developed countries as the U.S., Japan, Switzerland and the Netherlands. On the top end of the scale are Kazakhs, Albanians, Chinese and Thais. Not to worry, Scio says, because reading comic books and magazines also improves a child's reading skills, as does using the computer. Yes, of course, reading a magazine or the captions in a computer game helps develop technical reading and language skills, but reading literature plays the additional role of stimulating the brain to imagine and to invent. Down-playing or denying this is another major factor in the decline of Western civilization. Hats off to the OECD, but not to Scio, for recognizing the importance of reading for fun.



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