

**AN ASSESSMENT OF READING ABILITIES OF CLASS FOUR LEARNERS IN ENGLISH
IN FOUR SELECTED SCHOOLS IN THARAKA-NITHI COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND
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DECLARATION

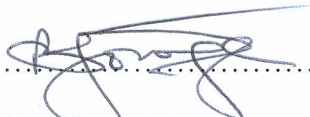
This dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

Signature..........Date 26/9/2014

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This dissertation has been submitted for review with our approval as the university supervisors.

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ABSTRACT

The importance of reading skills in today's society is great since one has to rely on reading to get information from many sources. This study focuses on assessment of learners' reading abilities in rural areas of Maara district in Tharaka-Nithi County. This will provide insights as to how and why learners' need to be assessed to determine their reading abilities during their early grades in primary schools since the main objective of this study is to assess the reading abilities of class four learners in rural areas. Other objectives of this study are; to assess reading readiness in using English as the language of instruction, and to determine challenges faced by class four pupils in reading of English. The proposed study will use EGRA sub-tasks in collecting data. The bottom up theory of reading by Flesch and Gough (1985) is used in the proposed study in order to achieve the objectives. The proposed study will use qualitative research design. The sample size will include 24 respondents who will be sampled purposively and systematically. Data will be analyzed and presented using Microsoft Excel pivot tables and charts. The proposed study will also give possible recommendations to teachers and education ministry on the best suited methods of instruction when teaching reading skills. Teachers are also recommended to change their methods of assessing reading abilities of learners.