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Re "Why do we read?" Opinion, April 26

David Kipen's poem, Book City, praises the bookstores he grew up with and those of today:

"I'm a reader because I grew up in Los Angeles,
most readerly city I know ..."

According to the recent America's most literate cities report, Los Angeles is hardly a "readerly city." Los Angeles had an overall literacy ranking of 56th out of 71 cities. In contrast with Kipen's impressions, Los Angeles did not do well in the bookstore category, ranking 59th,

Our worst performance was in the category of public libraries, where LA ranked 62nd, with several other Southern California cities also doing poorly (Long Beach, 53rd, Anaheim, 65th and Santa Ana in last place, 71st). For those who cannot afford to buy books from bookstores (or Amazon), the public library is often their primary source of books.

Stephen Krashen

You can view the literate report at:

http://www.ccsu.edu/amlc08/rbc_education_all.htm