

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus*. Students being tested should read from the actual novel not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the novel students will read from. You will need 1 copy of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet for each student you will be testing. You will need a timer.

Instructions for Recording Student Responses and Scoring:

As students read the passage use the following procedure to record errors.

Word read incorrectly: Write what the student said above the word. Count as 1 error.

Added word: Write a caret with the word above it where the word was inserted. Count as 1 error.

Unknown word: Give the student 3 seconds to say the word and then tell him or her the word. Write a T above the told word. Count as 1 error.

Deleted words: Draw a line through any words that are left out. Do not count deleted words when counting the total words read per minute.

Repeated words: Draw a wavy line under the word(s) that were repeated.

Self-correct: Put a check mark above the word.

Repeated words and self-corrected words do not count as errors. Students are already penalized for time with these types of errors.

Record words read per minute (wrpm) and errors on the top part of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. To calculate the accuracy percentage, use the following formula: Subtract the number of errors from the wrpm. Divide this number by the wrpm. Multiply by 100. Example: $76 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 71$ divided by $76 = .934$ x $100 = 93\%$ accuracy.

Students reading at least 50 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this novel study. Remember, this is the student's instructional level not his or her independent reading level.

Instructions for Administering the Placement Test

1. Fill in student information on the top portion of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet.

Setting the Scene

2. (*Note: This part of the test can be done individually, with a small group of students, or with a whole class. Hold up a copy of the novel for students to see.) **This book is called *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus*. Later, each of you will read part of the first chapter of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on the page facing page 1.) **In this novel a girl named Junie B. Jones has just started Kindergarten.** (Point to Junie B. Jones.) **What is this girl's name? *Junie B. Jones*. She starts the story by telling you a little bit about herself.**

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 1.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Junie B. Jones.) **This name is Junie B. Jones. What name? *Junie B. Jones*. Junie B. Jones is the main character in this novel.**

(Touch under the name Beatrice.) **This name is Beatrice. What name? *Beatrice*. Beatrice is Junie B. Jones' middle name. What is Junie B. Jones' middle name? *Beatrice*.**

(Touch under the word except.) **This word is except. What word? *Except*. Except is another way of saying only. What word is another way of saying only? *Except*.**

(Touch under the divided word kindergarten.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is kindergarten. What word? *Kindergarten*. Kindergarten is the school year before grade one. What do you call the school year before grade one? *Kindergarten*.**

5. **You will read part of this page aloud to me. I would like you to track under the words with your finger as you read aloud. You will read aloud for 1 minute. I will tell you when to stop reading. Be careful to read exactly what is on the page. (Start the timer and record student errors as indicated above.)**

Placement Test Scoring Sheet for *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus*

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____
Teacher: _____ Tester: _____
Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) _____ Errors: _____ Accuracy % _____
Placement: _____
Comments: _____

My name is <u>Junie B. Jones</u> . The B stands for	10
<u>Beatrice</u> . <u>Except</u> I don't like Beatrice. I just	18
like B and that's all.	23
I'm almost six years old.	28
Almost six is when you get to go to <u>kin-</u>	38
<u>dergarten</u> . Kindergarten is where you go to	44
meet new friends and not watch TV.	51
My kindergarten is the afternoon kind.	57
Today was my first day of school. I'd been	66
to my room before, though. Last week Mother	74
took me there to meet my teacher.	81

Excerpt from: Park, Barbara. Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus. Toronto: Random House, Inc. 1992.