

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the book *Mouse Tales*. Students being tested should read from the actual book not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the book 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: $53 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 48$ divided by $53 = .903$ $\times 100 = 90\%$ accuracy.

Students reading at least 25 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this book. 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 book for students to see.) **This book is called *Mouse Tales*. Later, each of you will read the first page of this book aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on the front cover. Point to the papa mouse.) **In this book a papa mouse is telling bedtime stories to his mouse children. Who is telling the stories?** *The papa mouse.*

(Point to the children.) **What are the mouse children wearing? Their pajamas. Let's count the mouse children.**

(Point to each mouse child as the students count.) **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. How many mouse children are there?** *Seven.*

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the book 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 word Papa.) **This word says Papa. What word? Papa.**

Papa is another way of saying Father or Daddy. What is another way of saying Father or Daddy? *Papa*.

(Touch under the word mouse.) **This word is mouse. What word? *Mouse*. A mouse is a small animal that has brown or grayish brown fur and a long hairless tail. What do you call a small animal that has brown or grayish brown fur and a long hairless tail? *A mouse*.**

(Touch under the word tale.) **When the word tale is spelled t-a-l-e, it means a story. What's another word for a story? *A tale*.**

(Touch under the word promise.) **This word is promise. What word? *Promise*. A promise is when you do exactly what you say you'll do. What's a promise? *When you do exactly what you say you'll do*.**

(Touch under the word right.) **This word is right. What word? *Right*. If you do something right away, you do it now. When do you do something if you do it now? *Right away*.**

5. **You will read 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. 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 *Mouse Tales*

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

“ <u>Papa</u> , we are all	4
in bed now,”	7
said the <u>mouse</u> boys.	11
“Please tell us a <u>tale</u> .”	16
“I will do better than that,”	22
said Papa.	24
“I will tell you seven tales—	30
one for each of you—	35
if you <u>promise</u>	38
to go <u>right</u> to sleep	43
when I am done.”	47
“Oh yes, we will,”	51
said the boys.	54

Excerpt from: Lobel, Arnold. Mouse Tales. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1972.