

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Genies Don't Ride Bicycles*. 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 *Genies Don't Ride Bicycles*. Later, each of you will read part of the first page of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on page 4.) **In this novel four friends find an old bottle in a crack between two branches of the big oak tree on the school playground, and open it. Suddenly strange things start to happen.**

(Point to the boy holding the bottle.) **This boy's name is Eddie. What is this boy's name? *Eddie*.**

(Point to the boy wearing the knitted cap.) **This boy's name is Howie. What is this boy's name? *Howie*.**

(Point to the girl next to Howie.) **This girl's name is Melody. What is this girl's name? *Melody*.**

(Point to the girl pinching her nose.) **This girl's name is Liza. What is this girl's name? *Liza*.**

### 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.**

**There are four friends in this story.**  
(Touch under the name Eddie.) **This name is Eddie. What name?** *Eddie.*

(Touch under the name Melody.) **This name is Melody. What name?** *Melody.*

(Touch under the name Howie.) **This name is Howie. What name?** *Howie.*

(Touch under the name Liza.) **This name is Liza. What name?** *Liza.*

(Touch under the word attention.) **This word is attention. What word?**  
*Attention. When you pay attention to something, you study it carefully. What do you do if you study something carefully?* *Pay attention to it.*

(Touch under the word noticed.) **This word is noticed. What word?** *Noticed. If you noticed something, you saw it. What word means saw?* *Noticed.*

(Touch under the words buried treasure.) **These words are buried treasure. What words?** *Buried treasure. Buried treasure is valuable things that have been hidden underground. What words mean valuable things that have been hidden underground?* *Buried treasure.*

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 *Genies Don't Ride Bicycles*

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

“What is it?” Melody asked Eddie. “Let	7
me see.”	9
“Keep your pigtails glued on,” Eddie	15
told her. “It’s stuck.” <u>Eddie</u> , <u>Melody</u> , and	22
their friends <u>Howie</u> and <u>Liza</u> were in their .	30
favorite meeting place under the big oak	37
tree on the school playground. The sun	44
shone bright in the blue December sky,	51
but none of the kids paid any <u>attention</u> .	59
It was the first time they had <u>noticed</u> a	68
strange object sticking out from a crack	75
between two branches of the tree. Eddie	82
tugged as hard as he could, but it didn’t	91
move.	92
Liza flung her blonde hair over her	99
shoulder. “Maybe it’s <u>buried treasure</u> .”	104
“In a tree?” Eddie laughed.	109

Excerpt from: Dadey, Debbie and Jones, Marcia Thornton. Genie Don't Ride Bicycles. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.