

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Littles Take a Trip*. 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 *The Littles Take a Trip*. 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.**

3. (Show students the illustration on page 5.) **The Littles are a family of tiny people who have tails.**

(Point to the 1 that looks like a ruler.)

Mr. Little is the tallest in his family, but he is only six inches tall. How tall is Mr. Little? Only six inches tall.

Later, each of you will read part of page 6 from this novel aloud to me. This part tells about the Littles and their home.

Hard Word Review

4. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 6.)

Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice some of the hard words before you read part of this page aloud to me.

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

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

Tom and Lucy are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Little. Who are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Little? *Tom and Lucy.*

(Touch under the name Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little.) **This name is Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little. What name? *Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little.* Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little are the parents of Tom and Lucy. Who are the parents of Tom and Lucy? *Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little.***

(Touch under the word midgets.) **This word is midgets. What word? *Midgets.***
(Touch under the word dwarfs.) **This word is dwarfs. What word? *Dwarfs.* Midgets and dwarfs are two kinds of very small people.**

(Touch under the word elves.) **This word is elves. What word? *Elves.* Elves are imaginary, tiny creatures that look like humans, but have magical powers. What are tiny, imaginary creatures that look like humans, but have magical powers? *Elves.***

(Touch under the name Bigg.) **This name is Bigg. What name? *Bigg.* The Bigg family owns the house where the Littles live. Who owns the house where the Littles live? *The Bigg family.***

(Touch under the word ordinary.) **Ordinary means common or usual. What word means common or usual? *Ordinary.***

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 *The Littles Take a Trip*

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

<u>Tom</u> and <u>Lucy</u> were the children of	7
<u>Mr. and Mrs. William T. Little</u> . All the	15
Littles were tiny people. They weren't	21
<u>midgets</u> or <u>dwarfs</u> or even <u>elves</u> . They	28
were tinier than that. Mr. Little was the	36
tallest Little. And he was only six inches	44
tall. All the other Littles were shorter	51
than he was	54
The Little family lived in the walls of	62
the house owned by the <u>Bigg</u> family.	69
Their ten small rooms took up only a	77
little space. The Bigg family didn't know	84
the Littles were living with them. The	91
tiny people always kept out of sight.	98
Except for being tiny, the Littles	104
looked and acted like <u>ordinary</u> people.	110
The Littles were different in one way	117
only: they had tails.	121

Excerpt from: Peterson, John. The Littles Take a Trip. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1968.