

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Gadget War*. 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: $97 \text{ (wrpm)} - 4 \text{ (errors)} = 93$ divided by $97 = .958$ x 100 = 96% accuracy.

Students reading at least 80 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 Gadget War*. Later, each of you will read part of page 3 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

Kelly, the main character in this novel likes to invent new things. She calls the things she invents gadgets. In this part of the story Kelly's teacher has asked the students to draw a picture of what they want to be when they grow up. When they finish with their picture, they are to put it on the bulletin board.

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 3.)
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 policemen.) **This word is policemen. What word? *Policemen*. A policeman's job is to make sure people are safe. What is a policeman's job? *To make sure people are safe.***

(Touch under the word astronauts.) **This word is astronauts. What word?**
Astronauts. An astronaut's job is to go out into space. What is an astronaut's job? To go out in space.

(Touch under the word ballerinas.) **This word is ballerinas. What word?**
Ballerinas. A ballerina is a kind of dancer. What is a ballerina? A kind of dancer.

(Touch under the name Mrs. Haycock.) **This name is Mrs. Haycock. What name?**
Mrs. Haycock. Mrs. Haycock is the third grade teacher in this story. Who is Mrs. Haycock? The third grade teacher.

(Touch under the name Kelly.) **This name is Kelly. What name?**
Kelly. Kelly is the main character in this story. Who is the main character in this story? Kelly.

(Touch under the word expectant.) **This word is expectant. What word?**
Expectant. Expectant means waiting for something exciting to happen. What does expectant mean? Waiting for something exciting to happen.

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 Gadget War*

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

The room was quiet as the twenty-three third	9
graders bent over their pictures. One by one	17
twenty-two kids came up and put their pictures	26
on the board—nine <u>policemen</u> , five <u>astronauts</u> ,	33
and eight <u>ballerinas</u> .	36
<u>Mrs. Haycock</u> frowned. It didn't seem to be	44
what she had in mind. You can't run a city	54
with nine policemen, five astronauts, and eight	61
ballerinas.	62
<u>Kelly</u> still worked at her desk. The kids	70
watched Kelly as she finished her project. They	78
watched her as she headed up to the bulletin	87
board.	88
Kelly liked the <u>expectant</u> looks that the other	96
kids gave her. She liked to be the one to try	107
something different.	109

Excerpt from: Duffey, Betsy. The Gadget War. New York, New York: Puffin Books, 1994.