

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo*. 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 novel that 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 One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo*. 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 page 6.) **In this novel a boy named Freddy is the middle child in his family.** (Point to the boy lying on the carpet.) **This boy is Freddy. What is this boy's name?** *Freddy*. (Point to the boy sitting on the sofa reading a book.) **This is Freddy's older brother Mike. What is this boy's name?** *Mike*. (Point to the girl sitting on the floor coloring.) **This is Freddy's younger sister Ellen. What is this girl's name?** *Ellen*.

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 7.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on the pages you will read to me. We will practice these hard words before you read these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Freddy Dissel.) **This name is Freddy Dissel. What is this name?** *Freddy Dissel*. **Dissel is Freddy's last name.**

(Touch under the word problems.) **This word is problems. What is this word?** *Problems. Problems are difficult situations that need to be fixed. What do we call difficult situations that need to be fixed?* *Problems.*

(Touch under the name Mike.) **This name is Mike. What is this name?** *Mike. Who is Freddy's older brother?* *Mike.*

(Touch under the name Ellen.) **This name is Ellen. What is this name?** *Ellen. Who is Freddy's younger sister?* *Ellen.*

(Touch under the word thought.) **This word is thought. What is this word?** *Thought. If you did think about something, you thought about it. What word means did think?* *Thought.*

(Touch under the word weren't.) **This word is the contraction weren't. What is this word?** *Weren't. Weren't is the short way to say were not. What word is the short way to say were not?* *Weren't*

(Touch under the word couldn't.) **This word is the contraction couldn't. What is this word?** *Couldn't. Couldn't is the short way to say could not. What word is the short way to say could not?* *Couldn't*

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 One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo*

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

<u>Freddy Dissel</u> had two problems. One	6
was his older brother <u>Mike</u> . The other was	14
his younger sister <u>Ellen</u> . Freddy <u>thought</u> a	21
lot about being the one in the middle. But	30
there was nothing he could do about it. He	39
felt like the peanut butter part of a .	47
sandwich, squeezed between Mike and	52
Ellen.	53
Every year Mike got new clothes. He	60
grew too big for his old ones. But Mike's	69
old clothes <u>weren't</u> too small for Freddy.	76
They fit him just fine.	81
Freddy used to have a room of his	89
own. That was before Ellen was born.	96
Now Ellen had a room of <i>her</i> own. Freddy	105
moved in with Mike. Mom and Dad said,	113
"It's the boys' room." But they <u>couldn't</u> fool	121
Freddy. He knew better!	125

Excerpt from: Blume, Judy. The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo. New York: Random House, Inc. 1981.