

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Sprite's Secret*. 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 *Sprite's Secret*. 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 3.) **In this novel a girl named Violet meets a fairy named Sprite. Sprite needs Violet's help to solve a difficult problem. (Point to Violet.) What is this girl's name? *Violet*. In this part of the story, Violet chases a toad, but gets a surprise.**

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 pages 4 and 5.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Violet.) **This name is Violet. What name? *Violet*. Violet is one of the main characters in this novel.**

(Touch under the word knees.) **This word is knees. What word? *Knees*. Touch your knees.** (Acknowledge correct response.)

(Touch under the word toad.) **This word is toad. What word? *Toad*. A toad is an animal similar to a frog. What animal is similar to a frog? *A toad*. Touch the toad in the illustration on page 4.** (Acknowledge correct response.)

(Touch under the word disappeared.) **This word is disappeared. What word? *Disappeared*. If something disappeared you wouldn't be able to see it. If you could see me, and suddenly you couldn't see me anymore you would say I had.....*disappeared*.**

5. **You will read parts of these pages 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 *Sprite's Secret*

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

<u>Violet</u> stopped running. She got down on	7
her <u>knees</u> . The damp grass soaked through	14
her jeans.	16
The <u>toad</u> sat still on the roots of the tree.	26
Slowly, Violet crawled to the toad.	32
"I don't want to hurt you," she whispered.	40
"I just want my marble back!"	46
Violet held out her hand. She was so	54
close! She could almost touch the toad's	61
brown, bumpy skin.	64
<u>Hop!</u> The toad hopped right into a hole in	73
the tree trunk and it <u>disappeared</u> .	79
"No!" Violet cried. She looked inside the	86
hole.	87
A faced looked back at her.	93
But it wasn't a frog face. In fact, it wasn't	103
the face of an animal at all! It was the face of	115
a tiny person.	118

Excerpt from: West, Tracey. Sprite's Secret. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000.