

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds*. 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  $76 = .934$   $\times 100 = 93\%$  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 Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds*. 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 5.) **The main character in this novel is a girl named Jennifer Jansen. She has a photographic memory. That means she remembers everything she sees. Because Jennifer has a photographic memory, people call her Cam, because her brain is like a camera.** (Point to the girl sitting on the bench.) **This girl is Cam Jansen. Who is this girl? Cam Jansen.** (Point to the boy sitting on the bench.) **This boy is Cam's friend, Eric Shelton. Who is this boy? Eric Shelton.**

#### 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 pages 3 and 4. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Cam Jansen.)  
**This name is Cam Jansen. What name? Cam Jansen. What is special about Cam Jansen?** Idea: *She has a photographic memory.*

(Touch under the name Eric Shelton.)  
**This name is Eric Shelton. What name? Eric Shelton. Who is Eric Shelton?** *Cam's friend.*

(Touch under the name Howie.) **This name is Howie. What name? Howie. Howie is Eric's baby brother. Who is Howie?** *Eric's baby brother.*

(Touch under the divided word playing.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is playing. What word?** *Playing.*

(Touch under the word memory.) **This word is memory. What word?**  
*Memory. A memory is something you remember. What's do you call something you remember? A memory. So, if you were playing a memory game with someone, part of the game would be to see how many things you can remember.*

(Touch under the word practicing.) **This word is practicing. What word?**  
*Practicing. When do you something again and again to get better at doing it, you are practicing that thing. What are you doing when you do something again and again to get better at doing it? Practicing.*

(Touch under the words mental camera.) **These words are mental camera. What words? Mental camera. Cam Jansen describes her photographic memory as a mental camera. What words does Cam Jansen use to describe her photographic memory? A mental camera.**

5. **You will read part of pages 3 and 4 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 Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds***

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Tester: \_\_\_\_\_

Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) \_\_\_\_\_ Errors: \_\_\_\_\_ Accuracy % \_\_\_\_\_

Placement: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

It was the first morning of spring vacation.	8
<u>Cam Jansen</u> and her friend <u>Eric Shelton</u>	15
were sitting on a bench in the middle of a	25
busy shopping mall. While Eric's mother	31
was shopping, they were watching Eric's	37
baby brother, <u>Howie</u> . And they were <u>play-</u>	44
<u>ing</u> a <u>memory</u> game.	47
Eric's eyes were closed.	51
"What color jacket am I wearing?" Cam	58
asked.	59
"Blue."	60
"Wrong. I'm not wearing a jacket."	66
Eric opened his eyes. "It's no use," he	74
said. "I'll never have a memory like yours."	82
"You have to keep <u>practicing</u> ," Cam told	89
him. "Now try me."	93
Cam looked straight ahead. She said,	99
" <i>Click</i> ," and then closed her eyes. Cam	106
Always said, " <i>Click</i> ," when she wanted to	113
remember something. She said it was the	120
sound her <u>mental camera</u> made when it	127
took a picture.	130

Excerpt from: Adler, David A. The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds. New York: Puffin Books, 1980.