

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*. 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 Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*. 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 7.) **While cleaning Eric's basement, Eric, and his friends Neal and Julie discover a hidden storage space. But when they go inside this closet, very strange things start to happen.** (Point to the boy kicking the soccer ball.) **This boy is Neal, Eric's friend. What is this boy's name? Neal.** (Point to the boy trying to catch the soccer ball.) **This boy is, Eric. What is this boy's name? Eric.** (Point to the girl sitting on the steps) **This girl is Julie, Eric's friend. What is this girl's name? Julie.**

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 2 and 3.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Neal.) **This name is Neal. What name? Neal. Who is Neal?** Idea: *Eric's friend.*

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

(Touch under the name Mrs. Hinkle.) **This name is Mrs. Hinkle. What name?** *Mrs. Hinkle. Mrs. Hinkle is Eric's mother. Who is Mrs. Hinkle?* *Eric's mother.*

(Touch under the divided word remodeling.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is remodeling. What word?** *Remodeling. If your family is remodeling a room in your house, you are fixing it up to make it more useful or attractive. What word means fixing up something to make it more useful or attractive?* *Remodeling.*

(Touch under the divided word supposed.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is supposed. What word?** *Supposed. If you are supposed to do something, it is your responsibility to do it. Name something you are supposed to do at school. Ideas: Listen to the teacher, do my work, play fairly.*

(Touch under the words according to my dad.) **These words are according to my dad. What words?** *According to my dad. According to my dad is another way of saying "My dad says". What is another way of saying "My dad says"?* *According to my dad.*

5. **You will read part 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 *The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*

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

“Hey, what’s up?” <u>Neal</u> asked.	5
“I have to clean the basement,” <u>Eric</u> grumbled.	12 13
<u>Mrs. Hinkle</u> gave Eric the garbage bags.	20
“You know your father wants to start <u>re-</u> <u>modeling</u> the basement soon. This was <u>sup-</u> <u>posed</u> to be your special job.”	28 34 39
Neal made a face at Eric. “That doesn’t sounds like much fun.”	47 51
“ <u>According to my dad</u> , it’s not sup- posed to be fun,” Eric replied. “It’s sup- posed to be done.”	58 65 68
“Give it two hours,” Mrs. Hinkle said. She pointed to the clock. It was two o’clock.	75 83 84
“Two whole hours?” Eric headed for the basement door.	90 93
“Hey, I’ll help,” said Neal. “We’ll be sort of a team. Maybe we’ll find some cool stuff.”	101 110
Eric smiled. Neal is a true friend, he thought. He’ll even help clean up junk.	118 125
“Okay. Come on.”	128

Excerpt from: Abbott, Tony. The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999.