# Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Andrew Lost: On the Dog*. 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 (wrpm) – 4 (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 *Andrew Lost: On the Dog*. Later, each of you will read part of page 6 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

   **In the first chapter of this novel a boy named Andrew has invented a special machine called an Atom Sucker. Andrew thinks that his invention can make people and things shrink and get smaller.**

**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 6.)

4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read part of this page aloud to me.**

   (Touch under the name Andrew.) **This name is Andrew. What name?** *Andrew.* **Andrew is a boy in this story who likes to invent things.**

   (Touch under the name Judy Dubble.) **This name is Judy Dubble. What name?** *Judy Dubble.* **Judy Dubble is Andrew's thirteen-year-old cousin.**

(Touch under the words Atom Sucker.) **These words are Atom Sucker. What words?** *Atom Sucker.* **Andrew calls the shrinking machine that he invented an Atom Sucker. What does Andrew call the shrinking machine he invented?** *An Atom Sucker.*

(Touch under the word controls.) **This word is controls. What word?** *Controls.* **The controls on a machine are what you use to make the machine work. The switch that turns the machine on or off would be part of the controls. What do we use to make a machine work?** *Controls.*

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
## *Andrew Lost: On the Dog*

Name of Student: _____    Date: _____

Teacher: _____    Tester: _____

Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) _____        Errors: _____    Accuracy % _____

Placement: _____

Comments: _____

| | |
|---|---|
| Andrew dragged the plug to the back | 7 |
| porch of an old white house. Andrew's | 14 |
| thirteen-year-old cousin Judy Dubble lived | 21 |
| here with her parents. But nobody was home | 29 |
| on this sunny summer day. Andrew had the | 37 |
| field behind the house all to himself. | 44 |
| Andrew plugged in the Atom Sucker. | 50 |
| Then he walked back to the machine to set | 59 |
| the controls. | 61 |
| On the back of the Atom Sucker were a | 70 |
| black power dial and a big red switch. The | 79 |
| dial set the shrinking power from 0 to 100. | 88 |
| Moving the dial past 0 turned the Atom | 96 |
| Sucker on. The red switch could be pushed up | 105 |
| or down. Up was marked SHRINK. Down was | 113 |
| marked UN-SHRINK. | 115 |
| Andrew pushed the big red switch up | 122 |
| to SHRINK. Then he turned the power dial up | 131 |
| to 5—low shrinking power. | 136 |

Excerpt from: Greenburg, J.C. Andrew Lost: On the Dog. New York: Random House, 2002.