

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. 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: $97 \text{ (wrpm)} - 4 \text{ (errors)} = 93$ 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 *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. Later, each of you will read part of page 12 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

At the beginning of this novel, the Quimby family is getting ready for the start of a new school year. Ramona and her sister will be going to new schools.

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 12. Students should start reading at the second line of page 12.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Ramona.) **This name is Ramona. What name? *Ramona*. Ramona is the main character in this story. Who is the main character in this story? *Ramona*.**

(Touch under the name Quimbys'.) **This name is Quimbys'. What name? *Quimbys'*. Ramona's last name is Quimby. What is Ramona's last name? *Quimby*.**

(Touch under the name Glenwood.) **This name is Glenwood. What name?** *Glenwood. Glenwood is the name of Ramona's old school. What is the name of Ramona's old school?* *Glenwood.*

(Touch under the words intermediate school.) **These words are intermediate school. What words?** *Intermediate school. An intermediate school usually is for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. What grades are usually in an intermediate school?* *Grades 4, 5, and 6.*

(Touch under the name Cedarhurst Primary School.) **These words are the name of a school. The name is Cedarhurst Primary School. What name?** *Cedarhurst Primary School. A primary school usually is for students in grades kindergarten, 1, 2, and 3. What grades are usually in a primary school?* *Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, and 3.*

(Touch under the name Beezus.) **This name is Beezus. What name?** *Beezus. Beezus is Ramona's older sister. Who is Beezus?* *Ramona's older sister.*

(Touch under the name Rosemont Junior High School.) **These words are the name of a school. The name is Rosemont Junior High School. What name?** *Rosemont Junior High School. A junior high school usually is for students in grades 7 and 8. What grades are usually in a junior high school?* *Grades 7 and 8.*

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 *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*

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

<u>Ramona</u> was going to ride the bus, because	8
changes had been made in the schools in the	17
<u>Quimbys'</u> part of the city during the summer.	25
<u>Glenwood</u> , the girls' old school, had become an	33
<u>intermediate school</u> , which meant Ramona had	39
to go to <u>Cedarhurst Primary School</u> .	45
"Ha-ha yourself." <u>Beezus</u> was too excited to	53
be annoyed with her little sister. "Today I start	62
high school."	64
" <u>Junior</u> high school," corrected Ramona, who	70
was not going to let her sister get away with	80
acting older than she really was. " <u>Rosemont</u>	87
<u>Junior High School</u> is not the same as high	96
school, and besides you have to walk."	103

Excerpt from: Cleary, Beverly. Ramona Quimby, Age 8. New York, New York: Avon Books, 1981.