

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Tippy Lemmey*. 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 that students will read from.

You will need 1 copy of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet for each student that 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 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 *Tippy Lemmey*. Later, each of you will read part of page 2 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

At the beginning of this novel, three friends have a problem with a new dog in their neighborhood. He chases them, barks and growls at them, and snaps at their heels. The page you will read tells about this dog.

Hard Word Review

1. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 2.)
2. **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 Tippy Lemmey.) **This name is Tippy Lemmey. What name? *Tippy Lemmey*. Tippy Lemmey is the name of the dog the children have a problem with. What is the name of the dog? *Tippy Lemmey*.**

(Touch under the name Lemmeyes.) **This name is Lemmeyes. What name? *Lemmeyes*. Lemmey is the last name of the people who own Tippy.**

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

(Touch under the name Wilson.) **This name is Wilson. What name? Wilson. Wilson is the last name of the people who used to live where the Lemmeys live now.**

3. **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 *Tippy Lemmey*

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

He was a monster—always waiting, ready to attack.	9
When we ran, he came after us. When we crossed the	20
street, he followed. No getting away from him. Over	29
him. Or under him.	33
He belonged to the <u>Lemmeys</u> . They were an <u>ordi-</u>	42
<u>nary</u> couple who bought the <u>Wilson</u> place and tried	50
to fix it up. Still it remained as plain as the Lemmeys	62
themselves. There was nothing plain or ordinary	69
about their dog, though.	73
<u>Tippy Lemmey</u> had reddish fluffy fur and a tongue	82
that looked like he'd been chewing on a sour-grape	92
sucker. He had a curled-up tail and a sweet teddy	103
bear face. But take it from me—there was nothing	113
kind about that dog. He had the heart of an alligator.	124

Excerpt from: McKissack, Patricia. Tippy Lemmey. New York, New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2003.