

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Maniac Magee*. 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 *Maniac Magee*. Later, each of you will read part of page 5 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

The first page of Chapter 1 introduces you to the main character, a boy named Maniac Magee. It tells you about where he was born and about what happened to his parents.

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 5.)
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 Maniac Magee.) **This name is Maniac Magee. What name? *Maniac Magee*. Maniac Magee is the main character in this novel. Maniac Magee isn't his real name.** (Touch under the name Jeffrey Lionel Magee.) **His real name is Jeffrey Lionel Magee. What is the boy's real name? *Jeffrey Lionel Magee*.**

(Touch under the name Bridgeport.) **This name is Bridgeport. What name?** *Bridgeport. Bridgeport is the town where Maniac Magee was born. Where was Maniac Magee born?* *Bridgeport.*

(Touch under the name P & W.) **This name is P and W.** (Touch under the & symbol.) **This symbol is read as the word and. What word do you say when you read this symbol?** *And.*

The P and W is the name of a fast trolley car that goes into the city. A trolley car is like a train, but it only has one car. (Touch under the word trolley.) **This word is trolley. What word?** *Trolley.*

(Touch under the word trestle.) **This word is trestle. What word?** *Trestle. A trestle is a high train bridge. What is a trestle?* *A high train bridge.*

(Touch under the name Schuylkill River. Pronounced: SKOOL-kill.) **This name is Schuylkill River. What name?** *Schuylkill River.*

(Touch under the words whole kaboodle.) **These words are whole kaboodle. What words?** *Whole kaboodle. The whole kaboodle is another way of saying everything.*

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 *Maniac Magee*

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

<u>Maniac Magee</u> was not born in a dump. He	9
was born in a house, a pretty ordinary house, right	19
across the river from here, in <u>Bridgeport</u> . And he had	29
regular parents, a mother and a father.	36
But not for long.	40
One day his parents left him with a sitter and took	51
the <u>P & W</u> high-speed <u>trolley</u> into the city. On the	61
way back home, they were on board when the P &	71
W had its famous crash, when the motorman was	79
drunk and took the high <u>restle</u> over the <u>Schuylkill</u>	88
<u>River</u> at sixty miles an hour, and the <u>whole kaboodle</u>	98
took a swan dive into the water.	105
And just like that, Maniac was an orphan. He was	115
three years old.	118
Of course, to be accurate, he wasn't really Maniac	127
then. He was Jeffrey. <u>Jeffrey Lionel Magee</u> .	134

Excerpt from: Spinelli, Jerry. Maniac Magee. New York, New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1990.