

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Enormous Egg*. 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 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 100 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 Enormous Egg*. Later, each of you will read part of page 7 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

Nate, the main character in this story, lives on a farm near Freedom, New Hampshire. He has just made a very strange discovery in the henhouse.

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 7.)
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 word peculiar.) **This word is peculiar. What word? Peculiar. Peculiar means strange. What does peculiar mean? Strange.**

(Touch under the word lopsided.) **This word is lopsided. What word? Lopsided. Lopsided means not straight. What does lopsided mean? Not straight.**

(Touch under the word broody.) **This word is broody. What word?** *Broody.*
When a hen gets broody, it means that she wants to sit on the eggs in her nest until chicks hatch out. What does a hen do when she gets broody? *Sit on the eggs in her nest until chicks hatch out.*

(Touch under the word bulgy.) **This word is bulgy. What word?** *Bulgy.*
When a hen gets bulgy she looks very fat. How does a hen look when she gets bulgy? *Very fat.*

(Touch under the name Ezekiel.) **This name is Ezekiel. What name?** *Ezekiel.*
Ezekiel is Nate's pet rooster. Who is Ezekiel? *Nate's pet rooster.*

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 *The Enormous Egg*

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

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| It was just about the middle of June when this <u>peculiar</u> | 11 |
| thing happened. For about a week I had noticed that one of | 23 |
| the hens was looking pretty queer. She had swelled out quite | 34 |
| a bit, and was <u>lopsided</u> , and her feathers stuck out all over, | 46 |
| the way a hen gets when she's too worried to smooth herself | 58 |
| down. Pop thought she was just <u>broody</u> and wanted to set, | 69 |
| and he told me to keep shooing her off the nest, but I had an | 84 |
| idea it was something more than that. She got so big she could | 97 |
| hardly waddle, and I didn't have the heart to push her off the | 110 |
| nest once she climbed up to it. So all that week she just sat | 124 |
| there getting more and more <u>bulgy</u> , and looking more and | 134 |
| more surprised at herself. Then one morning when I carried | 144 |
| <u>Ezekiel</u> out to the chicken yard I looked in the henhouse to | 156 |
| see how this hen was getting along, and my gosh, there was | 168 |
| the biggest egg I'd ever seen. | 174 |

Excerpt from: Butterworth, Oliver. The Enormous Egg. New York, New York: Little Brown and Company, 1956.