

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Stuart Little*. 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 90 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 *Stuart Little*. Later, each of you will read part of pages 2 and 3 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show the students the illustration on the page beside the inside title page.)

This is Stuart's family, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Little, and Stuart's older brother, George. If you look closely, you will see Stuart standing on the table. He looks remarkably like a mouse!

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 2.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

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

(Touch under the word shinnying.) **This word is shinnying. What word?** *Shinnying. Shinnying is another word for climbing. What is another word for climbing? Shinnying.*

(Touch under the name Mrs. Little.) **This name is Mrs. Little. What name?** *Mrs. Little. Mrs. Little is Stuart's mother. Who is Stuart's mother? Mrs. Little.*

(Touch under the word worsted.) **This word is worsted. What word?** *Worsted. Worsted is a type of cloth made from firmly twisted woolen thread. Worsted is a town in England where this kind of cloth was first made. What word describes a type of cloth made from firmly twisted woolen thread? Worsted.*

(Touch under the word handkerchief.) **This word is handkerchief. What word?** *Handkerchief. A handkerchief is a small piece of cloth that is used to wipe the nose or face or for decoration. What word means a small piece of cloth that is used to wipe the nose or face or for decoration? Handkerchief.*

(Touch under the word preferred.) **This word is preferred. What word?** *Preferred. Preferred means liked or wanted somebody or something more than somebody or something else. What word means liked or wanted somebody or something more than somebody or something else? Preferred.*

5. **You will read part of these pages 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 *Stuart Little*

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

Unlike most babies, <u>Stuart</u> could walk as soon as he	10
was born. When he was a week old he could climb	21
lamps by <u>shinnying</u> up the cord. <u>Mrs. Little</u> saw right	31
away that the infant clothes she had provided were	40
unsuitable, and she set to work and made him a fine	51
little blue <u>worsted</u> suit with patch pockets in which	60
he could keep his <u>handkerchief</u> , his money, and his	69
keys. Every morning, before Stuart dressed, Mrs.	76
Little went into his room and weighed him on a small	87
scale which was really meant for weighing letters. At	96
birth Stuart could have been sent by first class mail for	107
three cents, but his parents <u>preferred</u> to keep him	116
rather than send him away; and when, at the age of a	128
month, he had gained only a third of an ounce, his	139
mother was so worried she sent for the doctor.	148

Excerpt from: White, E. B. Stuart Little. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1945.