

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *A Wrinkle in time*. 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 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 *A Wrinkle in Time*. Later, each of you will read aloud part of pages 7 and 8 of this novel to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

Margaret Murry, known as Meg, the main character in this novel, is upset because she is having trouble at school.

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 frenzied.)
This name is frenzied. What word?
Frenzied. Frenzied means wild and uncontrolled. What does frenzied mean? Wild and uncontrolled.

(Touch under the word scudded.)
This word is scudded. What word?
Scudded.. Scudded means moved as if driven forward. What does scudded mean? Moved as if driven forward.

(Touch under the word wraithlike.)
This word is wraithlike. What word?
Wraithlike. Wraithlike means like a ghost. What does wraithlike mean?
Like a ghost.

You will read aloud part of this and the next page 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 *A Wrinkle in Time*

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

It was a dark and stormy night.	7
In her attic bedroom Margaret Murry, wrapped in an	16
old patchwork quilt, sat on the foot of her bed and	27
watched the trees tossing in the <u>frenzied</u> lashing of the	37
wind. Behind the trees clouds <u>scudded</u> frantically across	45
the sky. Every few moments the moon ripped through	54
them, creating <u>wraithlike</u> shadows that raced along the	62
ground.	63
The house shook.	66
Wrapped in her quilt, Meg shook.	72
She wasn't usually afraid of weather.—It's not just	81
the weather, she thought.—It's the weather on top of	91
everything else. On top of me. On top of Meg Murry	102
doing everything wrong.	105
School. School was all wrong. She'd been dropped	113
down to the lowest section in her grade. That morning	123
one of her teachers had said crossly, "Really, Meg, I	133
don't understand how a child with parents as brilliant	142
as yours are supposed to be can be such a poor student.	154

Excerpt from: L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. New York, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007.