Grade 3 Language Arts is appropriate for students who read on at least a beginning third-grade level, who can copy words at no less than 10 words a minute, and who can follow basic directions. Students who do not meet these criteria will have trouble performing on many of the activities presented in Grade 3 Language Arts.

A placement test evaluates students’ performance at copying and following directions. A reproducible copy of the test appears on page 93. The test is group administered and requires about 10 minutes for students to complete. The script for presenting the test appears below.

**Administering the Test**

Pass out a test form to each student. Students are to write their name in the space on the top. Present the following nonscorable (warm up) items and 4 scorable items.

- Get ready to follow some directions. *(Note: These are nonscorable items.)*
- Touch the picture of the dog. *(Observe students and give feedback.)*
- The dog is not the first or second or third picture. Raise your hand when you know the number for the dog.
- Everybody, what’s the number for the dog? *(Signal.) 6 *(Note: These are scorable items. Allow 5 seconds for each item.)*
- I’ll tell you directions. Do exactly what the directions tell you to do. Get your pencils ready.
- Listen: Circle the first picture. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- New directions: Make a box around the last picture. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- New directions: Make a line **under** the picture that is just after the bird. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- Listen again: Make a line **under** the picture that is just after the bird. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- New directions: Make a line **over** the picture that is just before the snake. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- Listen again: Make a line **over** the picture that is just before the snake. *(Pause 5 seconds.)*
- Everybody, put your pencil down and don’t touch it until I tell you.
- Touch the little story that is in the box.
- I’ll read that story. Follow along: Three men sat in their boat. One of those men jumped into the water. A big fish chased him.
- Everybody, touch the lines below the story. You’re going to copy that whole story. Everybody, touch the letter **A**. You’ll start right after the letter A. You’ll copy the story just the way it is written. You’ll spell all the words correctly. You’ll put in the capital letters and the periods just the way they are shown in the story.
- The first sentence of the story is: Three **men sat in their boat**. That’s the first sentence you’ll copy. Then you’ll copy the rest of the story. Pencils ready. You have 2 minutes. Get ready. Go. *(Time students. After 2 minutes, say:) Everybody, if you’re not finished, stop now and put your pencil down. *(Collect tests.)*
**Placement Test**

**Grade 3 Language Arts**

**Scoring the Test**

An answer key for the pictures appears below:

**Placement Criteria**

Students should not be placed in Grade 3 Language Arts unless they meet all the following criteria:

1. The student should read on at least the beginning third grade level. If you have doubts about the student’s reading ability, direct the student to read the following sentences from part A of lesson 1:

   - The three men were brothers. reports does not report
   - Three men fished from a boat. reports does not report
   - A big dog stood in the boat. reports does not report
   - All the men wore hats. reports does not report
   - A large fish was on the end of the line. reports does not report

   Point to each item the student is to read and say: “Read this sentence.” If the student gets stuck on a word, tell the word after about 3 seconds. The student should complete the reading in no more than 45 seconds and should make no more than 3 decoding errors. Students who exceed these limits probably do not read well enough to benefit from Grade 3 Language Arts.

2. The student should pass all the criteria listed on lines 1, 2, and 3 at the bottom of the placement test. The criterion for each line is indicated by the boldfaced number.

   - Number of errors on picture items 0 1 2 3 4
   - Number of omitted words (words not copied) 0 1 2 3 4 5
   - Number of copied words misspelled 0 1 2 3 4 5

If a student passes all the criteria but one and just barely misses meeting that criterion, the student could be placed in Grade 3 Language Arts.
Placement Test
Grade 3 Language Arts

Name: ___________________________    Date: ______________________

Three men sat in their boat. One of those men jumped into the water. A big fish chased him.

A.

1. Number of errors on picture items
   0    1    2    3    4

2. Number of omitted words (words not copied)
   0    1    2    3    4    5

3. Number of copied words misspelled
   0    1    2    3    4    5