Administering the Placement Test

As a rule of thumb, students who have successfully completed *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 1 or a first grade reading program should be able to succeed in *Reading Mastery Signature* Grade 2. However, this rule may not apply to all students, particularly those who can decode words silently but cannot read aloud with sufficient accuracy (no more than two errors per hundred words). Also, students who are extremely weak in answering written comprehension questions should not go into *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 2.

The reproducible Placement Test on page 76 determines the rate-accuracy and comprehension performance of students. Administer the test to all students before placing them in *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 2 or *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Transition. The test results will provide you with:

- “baseline” information about students’ reading rate and accuracy.
- a basis for gauging the process of students who are prepared to begin Grade 2.
- a means of identifying students who need the additional instruction and practice provided by Transition and those who should be placed in a Grade 1 sequence.

Instructions

- Make a copy of the blackline master of the Transition Placement Test (page 76) for each student.
- Part 1 of the test consists of ten vocabulary words and a reading passage. The vocabulary word reading is not scored. The reading passage contains 159 words and is timed and scored.
- Part 1 of the test is to be administered individually to the students. They should not observe others taking the test. Part 1 requires about three minutes per student. You will need a stopwatch.
- Part 2 of the test may be presented to all the students at the same time. Part 2 requires the students to write answers to comprehension questions about the part 1 passage. Students have two minutes to complete part 2.

Test Administration Directions

Part 1—Vocabulary Word Reading (Not Scored)

a. (Call a student to a corner of the room, where the test will be given.)

b. (Give a copy of the test to the student.)

   (Teacher reference:)

   1. expert
   2. clinic
   3. interest
   4. changes
   5. themselves
   6. people
   7. difference
   8. mirror
   9. through
   10. practicing
   11. questions
c. (Point to the column of words at the top of the test. Tell the student:) Touch word 1. (Pause.) That word is expert.
d. (Repeat step c for words 2–10.)
e. Your turn to read those words.
f. Word 1. What word?
   • (Repeat for words 2–10.)
g. (Repeat step f until firm.)

Part 1—Passage Reading

h. (Point to the passage in part 1.)
i. (Tell the student:) You’re going to read this passage out loud. I want you to read it as well as you can. Don’t try to read it so fast that you make mistakes. But don’t read it so slowly that it doesn’t make any sense. You have three minutes to read the passage. Go.
j. (Time the student. If the student takes more than three seconds on a word, say the word, count it as an error, and permit the student to continue reading. Make one tally mark for each error.)

Criteria for Part 1

- Students who make 5 or fewer errors and read the passage in two minutes or less should proceed to part 2 of this test.
- Students who make fewer than 8 errors or read the passage between 2:01 and 3:00 minutes do not proceed to part 2 of this test. These students should be placed in the Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Transition program. (See Placement Criteria.)
- Students who make 8 or more errors should be placed in the Grade 1 sequence or in a reading program with comparable reading skills.

Part 2—Story Items

For students who have met the criteria, present part 2, which is a group test. Administer part 2 no more than two hours after students complete part 1. Here are the steps to follow:

a. (Assemble the students.)
b. (Give each student a copy of the placement test.)
c. (Give the group these instructions:)
   Follow along as I read the passage you read earlier.

   Bill tried to say things that would interest other people. He asked questions and tried to get people to talk about themselves. He said things that were funny. He talked faster and louder. He tried to smile more when he talked. But all those changes made no difference. After Bill was through speaking, everybody else was sleeping.
One day, Bill was at home. He was practicing in front of the mirror. He smiled, moved around a lot, and talked to the mirror.

Just then the door bell rang. Bill opened the door and saw a woman who said, “I am an expert at making people sleep. I work for the Sleep More Clinic. We help people who have trouble sleeping. I hear that you can make people sleep, too.”

“Yes,” Bill said. “If I speak for a while, people will sleep.”

“That is interesting,” the sleep expert said. “Can you explain why people sleep?”

“Yes, I can,” Bill said.

(After reading the passage, say) At the bottom of the page are questions about the passage. Read the questions to yourself. Write or underline the answers. You have two minutes to finish.

d. (Time the students. Collect the test sheets after two minutes.)

**Answer Key Part 2**

1. What was the first name of the man in the story? _________________________ Bill

2. Underline 4 things he did to try to be more interesting.

   • frown more
   • smile more
   • whisper
   • ask questions
   • talk louder
   • talk softer
   • talk faster
   • talk slower

3. His problem was that he

   • was old
   • had five dogs
   • put people to sleep

4. He practiced in front of

   • his wife
   • the mirror
   • the TV

5. Who came over when he was practicing?

   • a sleeper
   • a dog expert
   • a sleep expert

6. Name the place where she worked.

   **Sleep More Clinic**

**Scoring Criteria for the Placement Test**

All students who make more than 8 errors on part 1 of the Transition Placement test should be placed in the Grade 1 sequence or in a program that teaches comparable reading skills.

Students who should be placed in the Transition program and begin instruction on Lesson 1 meet the following criteria on the Transition Placement Test:

• Students who make fewer than 8 errors on part 1 and read the passage between 2:01 and 3 minutes.

• Students who make 6 or 7 errors on part 1 and read the passage in 2 minutes or less.

• Students who make 5 or fewer errors on part 1 and read the passage in 2 minutes or less and make 2 or more errors on part 2.

Students who make 5 or fewer errors on part 1, read the passage in 2 minutes or less and make 1 or no errors on part 2 should be placed in the Grade 2 sequence and begin instruction on Lesson 1. These students can also be placed in the Transition program if necessary.
The following table shows the placement criteria for the Transition Placement Test:

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<th>Performance</th>
<th>Errors Part 1</th>
<th>Time Part 1</th>
<th>Errors Part 2</th>
<th>Placement</th>
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<td>8 or more</td>
<td>3 minutes or less</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
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<td>Fewer than 8</td>
<td>2:01 to 3 minutes</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>6 or 7</td>
<td>2 minutes or less</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>5 or fewer</td>
<td>2 minutes or less</td>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td>Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
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<td>Grade 2 OR Transition</td>
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**Rate Table for the Placement Test**

The following table shows the words per minute students read for specific times and numbers of errors on part 1 of the Transition Placement Test.

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**Words per minute**
Bill tried to say things that would interest other people. He asked questions and tried to get people to talk about themselves. He said things that were funny when he talked. But all those changes made no difference. After Bill was through speaking, everybody else was sleeping.

One day, Bill was at home. He was practicing in front of the mirror. He smiled, moved around a lot, and talked to the mirror.

Just then the doorbell rang. Bill opened the door and saw a woman. He asked, "Hi! Your name is Bill, right?"

"Yes, I can," said the woman. "I am an expert at making people sleep.

That is interesting," the sleep expert said. "Can you explain why people sleep?"

"Yes," said Bill. "I can explain why people sleep. While people are sleeping, I hear them talk. I hear them say things like, "I'm old." I hear them say, "I'm getting older." I hear them say, "I'm tired." I hear them say, "I'm tired of being old.""

"Yes," said the woman. "I am an expert at making people sleep. I work at the SleepMore Clinic. We help people who have trouble sleeping. I know a lot about making people sleep."

"Yes," said Bill. "I am an expert at making people sleep. I work at the SleepMore Clinic. We help people who have trouble sleeping."

Part 1

6. Name the place where she worked.
   a. an airport
   b. a hotel
   c. a sleep expert

5. Who came over when he was practicing?
   a. the TV
   b. the mirror
   c. the wall

4. His wife
   a. was old
   b. had five dogs
   c. put people to sleep

3. His problem was that he talked to the mirror.
   a. He smiled, moved around a lot, and was practicing in front of the mirror.
   b. One day, Bill was at home. He was practicing.
   c. He asked questions and tried to get people interested in other people. He asked, "Bill, tell me more things that would interest other people."