Placement Guide

This guide will help you choose the right One Minute Reader level for your child. The ideal level is neither too easy nor too difficult. It should challenge the student without being frustrating.

Evaluation Instructions

**Level E** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

**Level 1** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

**Level 2** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

**Level 3** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

**Level 4** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

**Level 5** Placement Worksheet & Student Passage

Print All
Evaluation Instructions

Setting Up
You will need the following materials:

- Student passages that the student will read (included in this packet).
- Placement worksheets for scoring the student (included in this packet).
- A digital timer for timing the readings. Digital timers are more accurate than wind-up timers.
- A pencil for scoring the student.

Find a place that is quiet and free of distractions. If possible, use a desk or table where you and the student can sit across from each other.

Choosing a Passage for Testing the Student
This packet includes one story from each of the One Minute Reader levels—E, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. These levels are reading levels, not grade levels. Use your judgment as to which level might be a good fit for a student. For example, if a student is just starting second grade, you may want to start by testing the student with the level 1 story.

Testing the Student
1. Place the student passage in front of the student, but ask him or her not to begin reading yet.
2. Place the corresponding assessment worksheet in front of you, and have a pencil ready.
3. Set the timer for one minute.
4. Tell the student to carefully read the passage aloud until you tell him or her to stop.
5. When the student starts to read, start the timer.
6. Keep track of the student’s errors while you listen. Use the “Three S’s Rule”— count as errors any words a student Stops at, Stumbles over, or Skips.
7. When the timer sounds, draw a line after the last word the student read.
8. Count back the number of errors the student made, and mark the student’s net score (words correct per minute).
9. If the net score is in the Target Zone, this is an appropriate level for the student.
   If the net score is in or near the Too Difficult zone, test the student with a lower-level story.
   If the net score is in or near the Too Easy zone, test the student with a higher-level story.
   If the student doesn’t fit any level or fits more than one level, then you can choose the level that you think will fit him or her best.
   - If the student is easily frustrated or lacks confidence, choose an easier level.
   - If the reader can handle more of a challenge, choose a harder level.

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A Stick That Walks

You see a twig on a tree. Then the twig starts to walk! It is not really a twig. It is a walking stick.

Walking sticks are insects. They look like twigs. They are thin. They are long. Some are brown. Some are green.

A bird may look for an insect to eat. It may see a walking stick. But the bird may not eat it. The bird may think it is just a twig.
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Do you like honey? If you do, you should like bees. Bees make honey.

Maybe you don't like honey. Should you still like bees? You should if you like plants and trees. You should if you like fruit.

We need bees. Bees help new plants to grow. Bees help plants make fruit. How do bees help?

A bee lands on a flower. It wants pollen from the flower. It wants nectar too. The pollen gets on its body. It flies to another flower. It leaves some pollen from the last flower on the new one. Now the flower can make fruit. It makes seeds to grow more plants.
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Imagine walking on the beach. Suddenly, the sand under your feet starts to move! You've stepped in a pool of quicksand! What should you do? Will you sink, like people do in the movies?

You might start to sink, but don't worry. If you relax, quicksand is not very dangerous. Spread out your arms and legs. Stay mostly still. You will slowly float to the top of the quicksand. Then you can crawl out.

Quicksand is just sand mixed with a lot of water. You can find it on the shores of rivers and streams. If you see a patch of very wet sand, toss a pebble into it. If the pebble sinks right away, you've found quicksand.

Why do things sink in quicksand? Because quicksand is so full of water, the grains of sand do not stick together to make solid ground. So the quicksand acts more like water than sand.

Quicksand is easy to make. Put some sand in a bowl. Add water until it just covers the sand. Stir hard. Now you have a bowl of quicksand!
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Food Fight!

Would you get in trouble for taking part in a food fight? Not during la Tomatina you wouldn't. La Tomatina is a big tomato fight. It takes place in Buñol, Spain, every year on the last Wednesday of August. More than 20,000 people join in the fun. They throw about 120 tons of tomatoes at each other.

On the morning of the fight, shopkeepers cover their windows and doors. At 11:00 a.m., trucks dump piles of tomatoes on the street, and the battle begins. A few rules make sure everyone has fun and no one gets hurt. You can't throw anything but tomatoes. You must also squish the tomatoes before you throw them.

By 1:00 p.m. the fight is over. Tomatoes cover everyone and everything. People wash off the tomatoes in temporary showers. A fire truck hoses down buildings and streets.

This strange tradition began in 1944 as a small food fight. Now it is the biggest annual food fight in the world. The town even created a festival around it. The week of the fight people enjoy fireworks, music, and good food.
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In 1666, more than half a million people called London home. Many houses and other buildings filled the city. Most of these structures were made of wood, and many had straw roofs. It sounds quaint, but when a fire broke out on September 2, those materials made perfect fuel. In no time, all of London was burning out of control.

The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The baker forgot to put out the fire in his oven before going to bed. Sparks from the oven ignited a fire. By the time the baker discovered it, the fire was too big for him to extinguish. A strong wind caused it to spread quickly.

London did not have a fire department. At that time, people fought fires by passing buckets of water, but that was not enough for this fire.

The fire burned for days! People grabbed what they could and fled the city. On the fourth day, the fire was put out, but the city was demolished. Thousands of homes were gone. Many churches and businesses were destroyed too. Surprisingly, fewer than 20 people died.

After the fire, the people of London were determined to rebuild. It took many years, but they restored London to a beautiful and thriving city!
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Special Delivery!

Have you ever gotten a letter? How long did it take to get to you? In the mid-1800s, a letter could take many months to get from east to west. All of that changed on April 3, 1860, with the birth of the Pony Express.

The Pony Express was a mail service from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. The mail carriers were young men brave enough to make the trip. The owners considered the job so dangerous that they preferred to hire orphans.

The Pony Express riders traveled the nearly 1,900-mile route at about ten miles per hour. Every ten to 20 miles the rider would stop at a relay station, mount a fresh horse, and be on his way in less than two minutes. After riding for 75 to 100 miles, the rider stopped at a larger station and handed the mail pouch to another rider.

The Pony Express was only in business for a year and a half. In that time, Pony Express riders made 308 trips. They traveled a total of over 600,000 miles. They lost only one mail pouch.

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