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

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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 **S**tops at, **S**tumbles over, or **S**kips.
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 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	TOO HARD
9	twig starts to walk! It is not really a twig.	
19	It is a walking stick.	TARGET ZONE
24	Walking sticks are **insects**. They look	
30	like twigs. They are **thin**. They are long.	
38	Some are brown. Some are green.	
44	A bird may look for an insect to eat. It	TOO EASY Test With Level 1 Story
54	may see a walking stick. But the bird	
62	may not eat it. The bird may think it is	
72	just a twig.	
75		

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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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We Need Bees

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.

TOO HARD Test With Level E Story

TARGET ZONE

TOO EASY Test With Level 2 Story

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We Need Bees

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Quicksand

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!

TOO HARD Test With Level 1 Story

TARGET ZONE

TOO EASY Test With Level 3 Story

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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.

TOO HARD Test With Level 2 Story

TARGET ZONE

TOO EASY Test With Level 4 Story

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London Burns

In 1666, more than half a million people called London
10 home. Many houses and other buildings filled the city. Most of
21 these **structures** were made of wood, and many had straw
31 roofs. It sounds **quaint**, but when a fire **broke out** on
42 September 2, those materials made perfect **fuel**. In no time, all
53 of London was burning out of control.

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

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

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

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

212

TOO HARD Test With Level 3 Story

TARGET ZONE

TOO EASY Test With Level 5 Story

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London Burns

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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
14 you? In the mid-1800s, a letter could take many months to get from
28 east to west. All of that changed on April 3, 1860, with the **birth** of
43 the Pony Express.

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

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

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

186 In October of 1861, the **transcontinental telegraph** was
194 completed. Now messages could travel from east to west **instantly**.
204 People no longer needed the Pony Express, but they would always
215 remember it.

217

TOO HARD Test With Level 4 Story

TARGET ZONE

TOO EASY

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