

# Placement Guide

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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.

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## 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**

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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 **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 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.

# A Stick That Walks

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

24 It is a walking stick.

30 Walking sticks are insects. They look  
38 like twigs. They are thin. They are long.

44 Some are brown. Some are green.

54 A bird may look for an insect to eat. It  
62 may see a walking stick. But the bird  
72 may not eat it. The bird may think it is  
75 just a twig.

**TOO  
HARD**

**TARGET  
ZONE**

**TOO EASY**  
Test With  
Level 1 Story

## **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.

# We Need Bees

10 Do you like **honey**? If you do, you should like  
14 **bees**. Bees make honey.

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

38 We **need** bees. Bees **help** new plants to  
46 **grow**. Bees help plants make fruit. How do  
54 bees help?

56 A bee **lands** on a **flower**. It wants **pollen**  
65 from the flower. It wants **nectar** too. The  
73 pollen gets on its **body**. It flies to another  
82 flower. It **leaves** some pollen from the last  
90 flower on the new one. Now the flower can  
99 make fruit. It makes **seeds** to grow more plants.  
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**TOO HARD**  
Test With  
Level E Story

**TARGET ZONE**

**TOO EASY**  
Test With  
Level 2 Story

# 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.

# Quicksand

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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!

**TOO HARD**  
Test With  
Level 1 Story

**TARGET  
ZONE**

**TOO EASY**  
Test With  
Level 3 Story

# 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?

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# Food Fight!

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

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

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

141 This strange **tradition** began in 1944 as a small food  
151 fight. Now it is the biggest **annual** food fight in the world.  
163 The town even **created** a **festival** around it. The week of  
174 the fight people enjoy **fireworks**, music, and good food.  
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**TOO HARD**  
Test With  
Level 2 Story

**TARGET  
ZONE**

**TOO EASY**  
Test With  
Level 4 Story

# 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.

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# Tiger Woods

10 Most golfers never make a **hole-in-one**. Tiger Woods  
11 **accomplished** this **feat** when he was just six years old. At that  
12 time, people who knew Tiger already believed he would become  
13 a great golfer. They had **proof**. Tiger began hitting golf balls  
14 before he was a year old. Day after day, he hit golf balls into a  
15 net in his garage. He even entered **competitions** early. He won  
16 a **pitch, putt, and drive** contest for kids when he was only two  
17 years old. At four, he won a **junior golf tournament**.

18 Tiger also believed in and **challenged** himself. He played  
19 all the time. He hung a list of golf-great Jack Nicklaus's  
20 **successes** on his wall. The list helped him stay **focused** on his  
21 **goal**. As the years passed, Tiger continued to **refine** his skills  
22 and win an **increasing** number of golf tournaments.

23 In 1997, the world knew how great Tiger was at golf. Tiger  
24 won the 1997 **Masters** Tournament with a score of 270. He  
25 beat the second place golfer by 12 **strokes**—a **Masters record**.  
26 Tiger set five other Masters records too, one of which he  
27 reached just because of his age. At 21, he was the youngest  
28 person to win the tournament.

**TOO HARD**  
Test With  
Level 3 Story

**TARGET  
ZONE**

**TOO EASY**  
Test With  
Level 5 Story

# Tiger Woods

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# Special Delivery!

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