

Placement Guide



This guide will help you choose the right One Minute Reader level for your student. 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.

A Stick That Walks

9	You see a twig on a tree. Then the	TOO HARD
19	twig starts to walk! It is not really a twig.	
24	It is a walking stick.	TARGET ZONE
30	Walking sticks are insects. They look	
38	like twigs. They are thin. They are long.	
44	Some are brown. Some are green.	TOO EASY Test With Level 1 Story
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.	

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 bees . Bees make honey.	TOO HARD Test With Level E Story
14	Maybe you don't like honey. Should you still	TARGET ZONE
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	TOO EASY Test With Level 2 Story
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.	
108		

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

8	Imagine walking on the beach. Suddenly , the sand	TOO HARD Test With Level 1 Story
20	under your feet starts to move! You've stepped in a pool of	
29	quicksand ! What should you do? Will you sink , like	
34	people do in the movies?	TARGET ZONE
45	You might start to sink, but don't worry. If you relax ,	
54	quicksand is not very dangerous . Spread out your arms	
65	and legs. Stay mostly still . You will slowly float to the	
74	top of the quicksand. Then you can crawl out.	
85	Quicksand is just sand mixed with a lot of water. You	
99	can find it on the shores of rivers and streams. If you see a	TOO EASY Test With Level 3 Story
112	patch of very wet sand, toss a pebble into it. If the pebble	
118	sinks right away, you've found quicksand.	
127	Why do things sink in quicksand? Because quicksand is	
140	so full of water, the grains of sand do not stick together to	
150	make solid ground . So the quicksand acts more like water	
152	than sand.	
163	Quicksand is easy to make. Put some sand in a bowl.	
174	Add water until it just covers the sand. Stir hard. Now	
180	you have a bowl of quicksand!	

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!

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.
183

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.

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.

London Burns

10	In 1666, more than half a million people called London	TOO HARD Test With Level 3 Story
21	home. Many houses and other buildings filled the city. Most of	
31	these structures were made of wood, and many had straw	
42	roofs. It sounds quaint , but when a fire broke out on	
53	September 2, those materials made perfect fuel . In no time, all	TARGET ZONE
60	of London was burning out of control.	
71	The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The baker	
84	forgot to put out the fire in his oven before going to bed.	
96	Sparks from the oven ignited a fire. By the time the baker	TOO EASY Test With Level 5 Story
108	discovered it, the fire was too big for him to extinguish . A	
115	strong wind caused it to spread quickly.	
126	London did not have a fire department. At that time, people	
137	fought fires by passing buckets of water, but that was not	
141	enough for this fire.	
151	The fire burned for days! People grabbed what they could	
165	and fled the city. On the fourth day, the fire was put out, but	
174	the city was demolished . Thousands of homes were gone.	
181	Many churches and businesses were destroyed too.	
187	Surprisingly, fewer than 20 people died.	
197	After the fire, the people of London were determined to	
208	rebuild. It took many years, but they restored London to a	
212	beautiful and thriving city!	

London Burns

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!

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

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.

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