

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Nate the Great and the Big Sniff*. Students being tested should read from the actual novel not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the novel students will read from. You will need 1 copy of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet for each student you will be testing. You will need a timer.

### Instructions for Recording Student Responses and Scoring:

As students read the passage use the following procedure to record errors.

**Word read incorrectly:** Write what the student said above the word. Count as 1 error.

**Added word:** Write a caret with the word above it where the word was inserted. Count as 1 error.

**Unknown word:** Give the student 3 seconds to say the word and then tell him or her the word. Write a T above the told word. Count as 1 error.

**Deleted words:** Draw a line through any words that are left out. Do not count deleted words when counting the total words read per minute.

**Repeated words:** Draw a wavy line under the word(s) that were repeated.

**Self-correct:** Put a check mark above the word.

Repeated words and self-corrected words do not count as errors. Students are already penalized for time with these types of errors.

Record words read per minute (wrpm) and errors on the top part of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. To calculate the accuracy percentage, use the following formula: Subtract the number of errors from the wrpm. Divide this number by the wrpm. Multiply by 100. Example:  $53 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 48$  divided by  $53 = .903$   $\times 100 = 90\%$  accuracy.

**Students reading at least 25 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this novel. Remember, this is the student's instructional level not his or her independent reading level.**

### Instructions for Administering the Placement Test

1. Fill in student information on the top portion of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet.

#### Setting the Scene

2. (\*Note: This part of the test can be done individually, with a small group of students, or with a whole class. Hold up a copy of the novel for students to see.) **This book is called *Nate the Great and the Big Sniff*. Later, each of you will read the first page of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on page 6.) **In this novel a boy named Nate is a detective.**

(Point to Nate.) **What is this boy's name? Nate. Nate has a dog named Sludge who is a detective too.**

(Point to Sludge.) **What is this dog's name? Sludge.**

**Detectives are characters who solve mysteries. Who are detectives? Characters who solve mysteries. When a detective is solving a mystery, we say he is working on a case. What is a detective working on when he is solving a mystery? A case.**

(Point to the name of the store.) **This story happens in a store called Weinman Brothers. Where does this story happen? In a store called Weinman Brothers.**

#### Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 7.)

4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the words Nate the Great.) **These words say Nate the Great. What words?** *Nate the Great.*  
(Touch under the word detective.) **This word is detective. What word?** *Detective.*

**Nate calls himself Nate the Great because he is very good at solving mysteries. Why does Nate call himself Nate the Great?** *He is very good at solving mysteries. Detectives are characters who solve mysteries. Who are detectives?* *Characters who solve mysteries.*

(Touch under the word case.) **This word is case. What word?** *Case.*  
**When a detective is solving a mystery, we say he is working on a case. What is a detective working on when he is solving a mystery?** *A case.*

(Touch under the words Weinman Brothers.) **These words are Weinman Brothers. What words?** *Weinman Brothers. This story happens in a store called Weinman Brothers. Where does this story happen?* *In a store called Weinman Brothers.*

5. **You will read this page aloud to me. I would like you to track under the words with your finger as you read aloud. You will read aloud for 1 minute. Be careful to read exactly what is on the page.** (Start the timer and record student errors as indicated above.)

## Placement Test Scoring Sheet for *Nate the Great and the Big Sniff*

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Tester: \_\_\_\_\_  
Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) \_\_\_\_\_ Errors: \_\_\_\_\_ Accuracy % \_\_\_\_\_  
Placement: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| My name is <u>Nate the Great</u> .          | 6  |
| I am a <u>detective</u> .                   | 10 |
| My dog, <u>Sludge</u> , is a detective too. | 17 |
| Today I had my biggest <u>case</u> ever.    | 24 |
| But Sludge couldn't help me.                | 29 |
| Because looking for Sludge                  | 33 |
| was the case!                               | 36 |
| Sludge was missing.                         | 39 |
| Lost. Gone.                                 | 41 |
| I had to find him!                          | 46 |
| This morning Sludge and I                   | 51 |
| went out to shop.                           | 55 |
| We went to my favorite store,               | 61 |
| <u>Weinman Brothers</u> .                   | 63 |
| Sludge isn't allowed in stores.             | 68 |

Excerpt from: Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman and Mitchell. *Nate the Great and the Big Sniff*. New York: Yearling, 2001.