

# Placement

Grade 3 Language Arts is appropriate for students who read on at least a beginning third-grade level, who can copy words at no less than 10 words a minute, and who can follow basic directions. Students who do not meet these criteria will have trouble performing on many of the activities presented in Grade 3 Language Arts.

A placement test evaluates students' performance at copying and following directions. A reproducible copy of the test appears on page 93. The test is group administered and requires about 10 minutes for students to complete. The script for presenting the test appears below.

## Administering the Test

Pass out a test form to each student. Students are to write their name in the space on the top. Present the following nonscorable (warm up) items and 4 scorable items.

- **Get ready to follow some directions.**  
(**Note:** These are nonscorable items.)
- **Touch the picture of the dog.**  
(Observe students and give feedback.)
- **The dog is not the first or second or third picture. Raise your hand when you know the number for the dog.**
- **Everybody, what's the number for the dog?**  
(Signal.) 6  
(**Note:** These are scorable items. Allow 5 seconds for each item.)
- **I'll tell you directions. Do exactly what the directions tell you to do. Get your pencils ready.**
- **Listen: Circle the first picture.**  
(Pause 5 seconds.)

- **New directions: Make a box around the last picture.**  
(Pause 5 seconds.)
- **New directions: Make a line **under** the picture that is just after the bird.**
- **Listen again: Make a line **under** the picture that is just after the bird.**  
(Pause 5 seconds.)
- **New directions: Make a line **over** the picture that is just before the snake.**
- **Listen again: Make a line **over** the picture that is just before the snake.**  
(Pause 5 seconds.)
- **Everybody, put your pencil down and don't touch it until I tell you.**
- **Touch the little story that is in the box.**
- **I'll read that story. Follow along: Three men sat in their boat. One of those men jumped into the water. A big fish chased him.**
- **Everybody, touch the lines below the story. You're going to copy that whole story. Everybody, touch the letter **A**. You'll start right after the letter **A**. You'll copy the story just the way it is written. You'll spell all the words correctly. You'll put in the capital letters and the periods just the way they are shown in the story.**
- **The first sentence of the story is: **Three men sat in their boat**. That's the first sentence you'll copy. Then you'll copy the rest of the story. Pencils ready. You have 2 minutes. Get ready. Go.**  
(Time students. After 2 minutes, say)  
**Everybody, if you're not finished, stop now and put your pencil down.**
- (Collect tests.)

# Placement Test

## Grade 3 Language Arts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Three men sat in their boat. One of those men jumped into the water. A big fish chased him.

A.


1. Number of errors on picture items	0	1	2	3	4	
2. Number of omitted words (words not copied)	0	1	2	3	4	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Number of copied words misspelled	0	1	2	3	4	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

### Scoring the Test

An answer key for the pictures appears below:



On each student's test form, record the number of errors for each criterion.

Line 1: Circle the number of errors the student made on **picture items**. If the student missed no items, circle 0. If the student missed all 4 picture items, circle 4.

Line 2: Circle the number of **omitted words** (words not copied). Read each student's story. Make sure all the sentences have the correct words. Mark any places where the student omitted words. Count the number of omitted words (those overlooked or those at the end of the story that were not written). If the number is 5

or less, circle the appropriate number on line 2. If the number is more than 5, write the number in the box at the end of line 2.

Line 3: Circle the number of **misspelled words**. Mark each misspelled word. Count the number. If the number is 5 or less, circle the appropriate number on line 3. If the number is more than 5, write the number in the box at the end of line 3.

### Placement Criteria

Students should not be placed in Grade 3 Language Arts unless they meet all the following criteria:

1. The student should read on at least the beginning third grade level. If you have doubts about the student's reading ability, direct the student to read the following sentences from part A of lesson 1:

1. The three men were brothers.	reports	does not report
2. Three men fished from a boat.	reports	does not report
4. A big dog stood in the boat.	reports	does not report
5. All the men wore hats.	reports	does not report
8. A large fish was on the end of the line.	reports	does not report

Point to each item the student is to read and say: "Read this sentence." If the student gets stuck on a word, tell the word after about 3 seconds. The student should complete the reading in no more than 45 seconds and should make no more than 3 decoding errors. Students who exceed these limits probably do not read well enough to benefit from Grade 3 Language Arts.

2. The student should pass all the criteria listed on lines 1, 2, and 3 at the bottom of the placement test. The criterion for each line is indicated by the boldfaced number.

1. Number of errors on picture items	0	1	2	3	4
2. Number of omitted words (words not copied)	0	1	2	3	4 5
3. Number of copied words misspelled	0	1	2	3	4 5

If a student passes all the criteria but one and just barely misses meeting that criterion, the student could be placed in Grade 3 Language Arts.

