

Reading Test

The following reading test is an excerpt from a simple, reliable, valid test developed by Dr. Patrick Groff for The National Right to Read Foundation, P. O. Box 490, The Plains, VA 20198. The complete test can be found at www.nrrf.org.

The test consists of six paragraphs taken from the middle part of school readers, grades 1-6, that were in wide use 100 years ago. Each paragraph represents material that anyone who has been properly taught should be able to read and comprehend at his or her grade level.

Have the student read aloud from the passage for his or her grade level. As you listen, make a check mark each time the student: a) skips a word, b) substitutes a different word, even though it may have similar meaning, c) inserts a non-related word, or d) mispronounces a word (if the student corrects the mispronunciation, remove the check). Stop if the student receives five or more checks in any one group. More than one check mark means that the student is not reading independently at his or her grade level.

If the student does not score well, it does not mean that he or she is dyslexic or has a learning disability or is of low intelligence. It does mean that he or she needs remediation with intensive, systematic phonics.

1

“What is that?” said Lucy, as she came out on the steps. “Oh, it is a little boat! What a pretty one it is!” “I will give it to you when it is finished,” said John, kindly. “Would you like to have it?” “Yes, very much, thank you, John. Has grandma seen it?”

2

Herbert worked away until he had made the beam and the post. Then he made a hole in the middle of the block, and put the post in. Next, he put the beam into a little groove at the top of the post, so that it would balance nicely.

3

“Don’t you hate splitting wood?” asked Charlie, as he sat down on a log to hinder Rob for a while. “No, I rather like it. When I get hold of a tough old fellow, I say, ‘See here, now, you think you’re the stronger, and are going to beat me.’”

4

In several parts of the world there are to be found large herds of wild horses. In South America the immense plains are inhabited by them, and it is said that ten thousand are sometimes found in a single herd. These herds are always preceded by a leader, who directs their motions.

5

The bear, a ten-foot mass in tolerable proportion, seemed to be regularly beset by a pack of hungry little swells. First, one would take him on the haunch, then whip back into the sea over his tail and between his legs. Presently a bolder swell would rise and pitch into his back.

6

It is a spacious and timbered room, with one large bull’s eye window — an overgrown lens. The thing is sort of a Cyclops. There are ropes, and chains, and a windlass. There is a bell by which the engineer of the first engine can signal the plowman, and a cord whereby the plowman can talk back.