

Teacher Copy: Assessment for Independent Reading Levels
Levels L-Z (Fiction/Narrative)

Reader's Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Excerpt from *Poopsie Pomerantz Pick Up Your Feet*,
 by Patricia Reilly Giff, pp. 32-35
 Level P 345 words

Independent Level: Yes No
 Accuracy Rate: _____

Book Introduction: *(Say this to the reader before he or she begins the student copy of the text)*
 "Tracy and Poopsie are going for a boat ride, when Tracy sees Richard and Leroy in another boat. Please read aloud the first section. When you get to the line, you may read the rest silently. When you're finished reading, I'll ask you to retell what you read."

- During & after the running record, you may make these observations & notes to inform instruction**
- Responds to punctuation by changing his/her voice
 - Self corrects before asking for help
 - Pauses while reading to think
 - Flexible word-solver
 - Reads in phrases rather than word by word
 - Miscues make sense
 - Miscues fit the syntax or structure of the sentence
 - Miscues look similar to words in the text

Running Record: *For the first 100 words, record the reader's miscues (or errors) above the word as he or she reads. Later, you may or may not code them, using miscue analysis (MSV). Stop when the child has made five miscues and go back to the previous level.*

"Boat's a mess," Tracy said. She hopped over the seat and reached for the oars.

Poopsie pulled off her sneakers and jumped in behind her. The bottom of the boat was disgusting. A half-dozen dead worms sloshed back and forth in an inch of water. She looked back at the riverbank. It was too far to jump out.

"Don't bother me with that right now," Tracy said. "Look who's coming."

Poopsie glanced up. Leroy was rowing down the river in their direction, along the opposite bank, with Richard in the backseat.

"Want to ram them?" Tracy asked.

Poopsie shook her (**100 words**) head. "No thanks. Let me out of here if you're going to start that kind of stuff. My mother says it's very dangerous."

***** (Reader may read silently from this point on) *****

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More observations & notes to inform instruction:

If only she were home with her mother right now, having lunch, she thought, or in the backyard.

Poopsie felt her mouth quiver. She brought her hand up and made believe she was rubbing it. The boat shot forward.

From across the way Leroy saw them coming toward him. "Yeow," he yelled. As fast as he could he headed for the landing on his side.

"Afraid to get your helmet wet?" Tracy shouted. She raced the boat (**200 words**) across the river toward him.

Poopsie held on to the sides with both hands. The boat was rocking back and forth, churning up the water. "Let me out of here," she yelled. "I've got to go home."

Tracy rowed faster.

Leroy ran his boat up on the rocks. He and Richard jumped out.

Tracy was going too fast to stop. She rammed into a pair of rocks jutting into the water.

"Yeow," Poopsie yelled. She slid off the seat into the wormy water on the bottom of the boat.

Leroy and Richard were dancing around on the rocks, laughing and (**300 words**) pointing as Tracy rowed away from them.

Poopsie looked down. A worm was stuck to her toe. She scrambled back up on the seat and scraped it off with her other foot. "What do you say we go back home? I think it's lunchtime." (**344 words**)

Total miscues including self corrected: _____

Self-Corrections _____

Miscues reader did not self-correct: _____

Accuracy Rate: Circle the number of miscues the reader did not self correct.

100%	99%	98%	97%	96%
0 miscues	1 miscue	2 miscues	3 miscues	4 miscues

96%-100% accuracy is necessary to determine the reader's independent reading level. Try another text if the reader made 5 or more miscues.

* If the child makes the same miscue repeatedly, count it as one miscue.

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Literal and Inferential Retelling

Say, "Retell the important parts of what you just read." Write notes regarding the student's retelling in this box and on the back of this page. If the reader has trouble getting started, prompt him/her to look at the text. Say, "What happened first?" Make a note that you prompted their retelling.

Comprehension Questions Section: Listen to the reader's retelling for the following information and take note of the reader's answers, based on the retelling. If the retelling did not already contain the following information, ask the reader the remaining questions and take note of the answers.

1. *Literal Question:* Describe the bottom of Poopsie's boat.

2. *Literal Question:* What happened when Tracy rammed the boat into a pair of rocks?

3. *Inferential Question:* Explain how Poopsie feels about being in the boat.

4. *Inferential Question:* Use evidence from the story to tell what kind of person Tracy is.

The reader must answer at least three of these questions to determine if this is the child's independent reading level. Try another text if the child could not answer at least three of these questions.

Final Score

- Yes No Was the reader's accuracy rate at least 96%?
 Yes No Did the reader read with fluency?
 Yes No Did the reader answer at least three comprehension questions in the Comprehension Questions Section correctly?
 Yes No Did the retelling express the important things that happened in the text?

If the answer is "Yes" to all four questions, this is the child's independent reading level.

* Continue trying more difficult texts until you have found the child's highest independent level. *