

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

<p>Reader's Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____          Excerpt from <i>The Good Liar</i>, by Gregory Maguire, pp. 17-19          Level T 396 words</p>	<p>Independent Level: Yes No          Accuracy Rate: _____</p>
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**Book Introduction:** (*Say this to the reader before he or she begins the student copy of the text*)

“This is the story of a French family in 1940. In this scene, Rene, Pierre, and Marcel, the youngest, are on their way home with their dog, named Mirabeau. Their mother, whom they call “Maman,” is at home waiting for them. 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.*

Coming back one evening from the farm where we went to get milk, Pierre, Rene, and I began to run. Mirabeau pranced alongside us, yapping her delight.

Pierre swung the milk pail around in a circle, and the milk stayed inside. This seemed a miracle to me!

“How does it do that?” I asked. I was too young to understand the force of centrifugal motion. “Let me try.”

“You’re too small,” said Rene.

“Oh, let him try,” said Pierre, peering at me kindly through his spectacles.

(He had inherited them from the village doctor when the doctor died. It had (**100 words**) been hoped that seeing better might make him a little smarter, but that hope was soon dashed.)

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

“He’ll get us into trouble,” said Rene.

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*More observations & notes to inform instruction:*

I was too small to get up enough speed to swing the milk pail. When Pierre let me try, the milk went slopping out over the road, splashing the dark wild weeds with dripping mustaches. I remember the milk even dotting the fretwork of a spider’s web with tiny pearl drops, small as bugs’ teeth.

This was a serious loss. There wasn’t enough milk to waste in accidents, nor money for replacing it. Especially since our (200 words) father was away. Legally, it was all my fault; I had spilled the milk. Luckily, as the youngest I should get the lightest punishment. But Pierre and Rene felt bad. After all, they had swung the pail first. They had urged me to take a try. We chattered in fear, the threat of our angry mother more real and terrible to us than the threat of the approaching German army. Would it be possible to avoid punishment altogether?

“Think, Rene,” commanded Pierre, who had draped his arm on my shoulder to cheer me up. He was strong and good to (300 words) me. Rene thought. Then we made a detour. When we arrived back in our kitchen, we had a milk pail filled with opening iris blossoms. “Look,” we chorused with our fake enthusiasm, “look what the nuns gave us!”

“Where’s our milk?” asked Maman suspiciously.

“Oh, Mother Superior saw us on the road and begged us to give her the milk!” Rene was glib as a mockingbird. “They had a very, very, very sick nun who needed fresh milk right away. The mother superior gave us flowers from her garden to thank us for our Christian charity.” (396 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, "In writing, retell the important parts of what you just read and answer the four questions. You may look back at the text if you need to." The reader will write the retelling and answers to Part 1 on the student copy. You may assess the reader's comprehension when finished. If the reader has difficulty writing the retelling or the answers to Part 1, you may complete any or all of this section orally.

**Optional:** 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:**

The reader will answer these four questions on the student copy, along with the written retelling.

**Optional:** 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:* Why was it serious that the milk was spilled?
  
2. *Literal Question:* What was the story that the boys told Maman?
  
3. *Inferential Question:* Why do you think the boys made up a story instead of telling the truth?
  
4. *Inferential Question:* How do you think Rene felt after he lied to Maman? What makes you think this?

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**

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|-----|----|--|
| 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. \*