

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Speed Improvement Screening, Teacher Copy

### 1. Silent Reading Passage

Time to read passage in seconds \_\_\_\_\_

My first act before I went into the pantry was to fasten the door between the kitchen and the scullery. But the pantry was empty; every scrap of food had gone. Apparently, the Martian had taken it all on the previous day. At that discovery I despaired for the first time. I took no food, or no drink either, on the eleventh or the twelfth day.

At first my mouth and throat were parched, and my strength ebbed sensibly. I sat about in the darkness of the scullery, in a state of despondent wretchedness. My mind ran on eating. I thought I had become deaf, for the noises of movement I had been accustomed to hear from the pit had ceased absolutely. I did not feel strong enough to crawl noiselessly to the peephole, or I would have gone there.

On the twelfth day my throat was so painful that, taking the chance of alarming the Martians, I attacked the creaking rain-water pump that stood by the sink, and got a couple of glassfuls of blackened and tainted rain water. I was greatly refreshed by this, and emboldened by the fact that no enquiring tentacle followed the noise of my pumping.

### 2. Oral Reading, nonsense words

Time to read in seconds \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Reading, nonsense words

Number of words missed \_\_\_\_\_

scrib streep flape nup tigh vool dret breel vap funt lonk fass yad tawn

stroat hipt ferm poct zub brile gract thren flipple swoak glawn

### 3. Oral Word Reading, untimed

Number of words missed \_\_\_\_\_

picturesque diadem reconnoiter opulence nebulous mortification

myriad querulous tautological renunciation qualitative herculean

immateriality abrogated imperceptibility rhododendron etymological

extemporaneous sardonically miasma loquacious diametrical

# Reading Speed Improvement Screening

## Student copy

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## Directions for Reading Speed Improvement Screening

### Directions, part 1.

The first passage is to be read silently, and timed. Tell the student to read and not skim the entire passage and tell them you will want them to tell you a few things about the passage and that you will ask them a question or two after they are finished. The passage is an excerpt from H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds."

Possible questions:

1. What do you think the passage was about?
2. Do you think the Martians were friendly? Why or why not?
3. What can you tell me about the reading passage?

**Scoring, part 1.** To get an exact WPM rate, use  $12060/\text{time to read in seconds}$ .

|                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Time to Read (seconds) | 120 | 90  | 60  | 50  | 40  | 30  | 25  | 20  |
| WPM                    | 101 | 134 | 201 | 241 | 302 | 402 | 482 | 603 |

A good adult reader should be able to read 300 – 500 words per minute (WPM.) Anyone scoring below 500 WPM should benefit from the syllables program. Children should be able to read at least 150 WPM by the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and at least 200 WPM by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A high school student should be reading at least 250 WPM. To do well in college, you should be reading at least 300 WPM. A silent reading speed test with easier reading passages for children is available at 40L.<sup>1</sup>

### Directions, part 2.

This section is to be read orally and timed for speed. Time the rate at which the student reads the words and keep track of the number of words missed. The 25 words per passage makes calculating accuracy easy, just multiply the number correct by 4, for example, 20 correct is 80% and 24 correct is 96% accuracy. To get an exact WPM rate, use  $1500/\text{time to read in seconds}$ .

### Scoring, part 2

|                        |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Time to Read (seconds) | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 25 | 30 |
| WPM                    | 136 | 125 | 115 | 107 | 100 | 94 | 88 | 83 | 75 | 65 | 60 | 50 |

An adult or a child age 12 or older should be reading the nonsense words at least 100 Words Per Minute (WPM) with 100% accuracy.

An 11 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 95 WPM with 100% accuracy.

A 10 year old should be reading nonsense words at least 90 WPM with 100% accuracy.

A 9 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 80 WPM with 95% accuracy.

A 8 year old should be reading the nonsense words at least 70 WPM with 90% accuracy.

A 7 year old should read them at least 60 WPM with 90% accuracy. A 6 year old should read them at least 40

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<sup>1</sup> Test at <http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/Resources/Reading%20speed%20tests.pdf>

WPM with 85% accuracy.

Anyone who is reading below these recommendations for their age should benefit from the syllables program and nonsense word training.

### **Directions and Scoring, part 3**

This section is to assess oral word level reading. Count the number of words missed and stop if 5 or more words are missed. Anyone missing more than a single word can benefit from the syllables program. If you are interested in knowing your student's reading grade level, several different tests are available at 40L.<sup>2</sup> The easiest and quickest to give is the 40L Quick Screen Reading Grade level test.<sup>3</sup>

### **About the Syllables Program**

Syllables Spell Success is an interactive 10 lesson course that 40L volunteers have been teaching to individual students for 10 years and to groups of students for 7 years. The classes have averaged 1 to 2 grades of reading grade level improvement after class completion. The course focuses on syllables and spelling, working on 2 syllable words from lesson one. The first half of the lessons focuses on syllables and spelling patterns, using a mix of real and nonsense words. Each of these lessons end with phonics games based on single syllable words. The second half of the lessons work on advanced phonics and include Greek and Latin word root study and syllable based phonics of 4th to 12th grade level words. Each of these lessons end with Greek or Latin word root bingo. The course is taught with free YouTube videos and free to print worksheets.<sup>4</sup>

### **Improving Reading Speed**

The average student in the Syllables class improved their reading speed by 37% after completing the 10 lesson course. Brain research has found that the brains of good readers are processing every letter or letter team in every word in the area of the brain that processes sound. By overlearning the sounds and syllables and practicing these elements with nonsense word drills, you may be able to improve your reading speed. For more about the science and idea behind this, see 40L's PDF and video explanations.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> More tests at <http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/readinggradeleve.html>

<sup>3</sup> 40L Quick Screen Reading Grade Level test, direct link at <http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/Resources/40L%20Test.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> 40L's Syllables Spell Success program is available at <http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/syllablesspellsu.html>

<sup>5</sup> 40L's PDF about reading speed and brain science at <http://www.thephonicspage.org/On%20Reading/Resources/Train%20your%20brain%20to%20read%20faster.pdf> and a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtKN6j1apDs>