

Here is a quick reading test to see if your child is reading at a 4th Grade Reading Level or above.

Have your 4th grade or older child read the short excerpt on the following page.

Print two copies of the following reading test. One copy will be for your child to read and the other copy will be for you to follow along and mark any mistakes he/she makes.

If he/she makes more than 6 mistakes, the child is reading below 4th grade level.

Please be aware that this reading test does **NOT** test for comprehension. There's no point to testing a child for comprehension or for inferential thinking unless you know that he/she can read **every** word on **every** page.

QUESTION: What constitutes "a mistake?"

ANSWER: Use the following guidelines for determining mistakes:

- a) If a child is unable to pronounce a word, this counts as a mistake. If the child immediately corrects his error, you do not need to count that as a mistake.
- b) If a student omits a word, ask the child to read the line again more carefully. Do not give him/her any hints and do not tell the child what the word is. If the child misses a word, tell him/her to "go on."

On your copy, underline each word that the child cannot pronounce or that he omitted. Also, mark an error if the reading was slow or labored.

(continue to next page for the actual reading test)

A Short Excerpt entitled:
***Summer Wind* by William Cullen Bryant**

It is a sultry day; the sun has drank
The dew that lay upon the morning grass,

There is no rustling in the lofty elm
That canopies my dwelling, and its shade
Scarce cools me.

All is silent, save the faint
And interrupted murmur of the bee,
Settling on the sick flowers, and then again
Instantly on the wing.

The plants around
Feel the too potent fervors; the tall maize
Rolls up its long green leaves; the clover droops
Its tender foliage, and declines its blooms.

But far in the fierce sunshine tower the hills,
With all their growth of woods, silent and stern...