

Literacy Case Study 2 – Primary

Jamie Smith, Age 9:01, Primary 4

Jamie was assessed as part of year-on-year screening with *New Group Reading Test*. His unusual profile prompted a follow-up assessment with the *York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension*.

Jamie's *NGRT* scores

His standard age score of 119 was above average placing him in the top 10% of pupils of his age for overall reading ability. However, there was a significant gap in performance between Sentence Completion (stanine 9) and Passage Comprehension. This warrants further investigation, even though his performance overall was very good and his reading age was calculated at over three years in advance of his chronological age.

As can be seen from the Sentence Completion graph, Jamie answered correctly increasingly difficult questions.

Many of the questions presented are at Level 3 (for Y5 to Y8). Jamie clearly has exceptional sentence completion skills.

At the end of the Sentence Completion section Jamie's reading ability was re-calculated and his age was no longer a factor. The first passage presented is at Level 4 (Y9 and above) and Jamie achieved a raw score of three, including the first three context comprehension questions (in effect a sentence completion task). Then, the difficulty level dropped, but only slightly (*The Early Bicycle*) where even the context comprehension questions were too difficult and Jamie achieved only one raw score mark. Again, the difficulty level was decreased, but the final passage was still at Level 4, and again, Jamie achieved a single raw score mark.

However, given his age and the difficulty level of the material, Jamie's stanine score of 6 puts him in the high average range for Passage Comprehension.

Jamie's *YARC* scores

To check Jamie's level of reading comprehension it was decided to administer the *YARC* where students read a passage of continuous prose and answer questions of increasing difficulty. The *Single Word Reading Test* is used to place students at the beginning of the assessment.

Jamie scored 49 on the *SWRT*: he read quickly and fluently, reinforcing his excellent decoding and sight reading/vocabulary skills. He faltered only at the beginning of the final set of words, which included 'ferocious', 'abysmal' and 'liaise'.

On the basis of this, Level 6A (*Pirates*) was administered. He scored 4 for comprehension so dropped down one level to 5A (*Camping Trip*). It should be borne in mind that Jamie is reading passages at a higher level than his year group

might suggest (this is one of the benefits of the *YARC*) but because this is a primary level assessment, the passages reach a ceiling at Year 6.

As can be seen from the scores set out below, Jamie's high levels of accuracy in reading are confirmed, his reading rate and comprehension are average for his age.

Summary of scores				
	Ability score	Standard	Percentile	Age equivalent
Accuracy	68	121	92	above 12:05
Reading Rate	68	102	55	9:09
Comprehensio	60	106	66	10:02

However, the *YARC* outcomes will give his teacher good additional information to

Analysis of comprehension questions					
	Cohesive device	Evaluative inference	Knowledge-based inference	Literal information	Vocabulary dependent
Number of questions (summed across)	3	2	6	1	4
Percentage correct	33.3%	50.0%	66.7%	0.0%	50.0%

work with because the assessment material is at a more appropriate age level.

Combining *YARC* and *NGRT* scores

By combining the *YARC* analysis with that from *NGRT* it is possible to get a clearer picture of Jamie's comprehension skills where context comprehension is relatively secure but higher order skills such as cohesive device (a form of inference) need further development. Jamie can apply his knowledge of the real world to interpret unseen texts quite well.

Because Jamie is a fluent and accurate reader it will be important that the complexity of texts he reads matches his comprehension level rather than his decoding level. The reading age ascribed to him in *NGRT* (and reflected in the *YARC* accuracy reading age) would appear to be inflated by his excellent sentence

completion skills. A reading age for comprehension of a year in advance of his chronological age would seem to be more accurate.