

# OPTIMAL READING RATES

by grade level



## Silent Reading Rates

1<sup>st</sup> grade: 80 wpm

2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 115 wpm

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 138 wpm

4<sup>th</sup> grade: 158 wpm

5<sup>th</sup> grade: 173 wpm

6<sup>th</sup> grade: 185 wpm

7<sup>th</sup> grade: 195 wpm

8<sup>th</sup> grade: 204 wpm

9<sup>th</sup> grade: 214 wpm

10<sup>th</sup> grade: 224 wpm

11<sup>th</sup> grade: 237 wpm

12<sup>th</sup> grade: 250 wpm

College or University: 280 wpm



## Oral Reading Rates

1<sup>st</sup> grade: 53 wpm

2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 89 wpm

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: 107 wpm

4<sup>th</sup> grade: 123 wpm

5<sup>th</sup> grade: 139 wpm

6<sup>th</sup> grade: 150 wpm

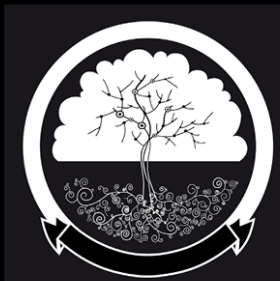
7<sup>th</sup> grade: 150 wpm

8<sup>th</sup> grade: 151 wpm

Notice that oral reading rates beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level are not listed. This is due to the fact that when we read aloud, we generally do not read faster than what we can read at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.



SOURCE: Hasbrouck & Tindal, 2006



GET TO THE  
ROOT  
of reading  
problems