

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the book *Ferno the Fire Dragon*. Students being tested should read from the actual book not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the book students will read from.

You will need 1 copy of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet for each student you will be testing.

You will need a timer.

Instructions for Recording Student Responses and Scoring:

As students read the passage use the following procedure to record errors.

Word read incorrectly: Write what the student said above the word. Count as 1 error.

Added word: Write a caret with the word above it where the word was inserted. Count as 1 error.

Unknown word: Give the student 3 seconds to say the word and then tell him or her the word. Write a T above the told word. Count as 1 error.

Deleted words: Draw a line through any words that are left out. Do not count deleted words when counting the total words read per minute.

Repeated words: Draw a wavy line under the word(s) that were repeated.

Self-correct: Put a check mark above the word.

Repeated words and self-corrected words do not count as errors. Students are already penalized for time with these types of errors.

Record words read per minute (wrpm) and errors on the top part of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. To calculate the accuracy percentage, use the following formula: Subtract the number of errors from the wrpm. Divide this number by the wrpm. Multiply by 100. Example: $76 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 71$ divided by $76 = .934$ x 100 = 93% accuracy.

Students reading at least 80 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this book. Remember, this is the student's instructional level not his or her independent reading level.

Instructions for Administering the Placement Test

1. Fill in student information on the top portion of the Placement Test Scoring Sheet.

Setting the Scene

2. (Note: This part of the test can be done individually, with a small group of students, or with a whole class. Hold up a copy of the book for students to see.) **This book is called *Ferno the Fire Dragon*. Later, each of you will read part of page 6 of this book aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

***Ferno the Fire Dragon* is a kind of story called a hero quest. What kind of a story is *Ferno the Fire Dragon*? A hero quest.**

Stories that are hero quests tell about a hero's journey to accomplish a very difficult and dangerous task. What is a quest? A journey to accomplish a very difficult and dangerous task.

A hero is a strong character who is very brave and is determined not to give up. Often heroes are ordinary people who have special qualities such as courage, honesty, strength, kindness, and a strong desire to do good things for others. What qualities does a hero have? Ideas: Strength, bravery, courage, determination, does not give up, honesty, kindness, and a strong desire to do good things for others.

(Show students the illustration on page 7.) **What do you see in this illustration? Ideas: A boy with long hair; a boy stabbing a straw filled pillow with a poker; a tree.**

The boy in the illustration is Tom, the hero of this quest. Who is the boy in the illustration? Tom.

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test is administered individually. Give the student a copy of the book open to page 6.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the word Surrender.) **This word is surrender. What word? Surrender. Surrender means give up. What word means give up? Surrender.**

(Touch under the word villain.) **This word is villain. What word? Villain. A villain is an evil person. What is another word for an evil person? Villain.**

(Touch under the word knight.) **This word is knight. What word? Knight. A knight is a man who follows the orders of a king or queen and fights for them in war. What do you call a man who follows the orders of a king or queen and fights for them in war? A knight.**

(Touch under the word blacksmith.) **This word is blacksmith. What word? Blacksmith. A blacksmith is someone who makes tools and weapons out of metal. What do you call a person who makes tools and weapons out of metal? A blacksmith.**

(Touch under the word village.) **This word is village. What word? Village. A village is a small town. What word means a small town? Village.**

(Touch under the word forge.) **This word is forge. What word? Forge. A forge is the place where a blacksmith works. What word means the place where a blacksmith works? Forge.**

(Touch under the name Farmer Gretlin.) **This name is Farmer Gretlin. What name? Farmer Gretlin.**

(Touch under the word practice.) **This word is practice. What word? Practice. When you practice something, you do it again and again so you get better at it. What word means do something again and again so you get better at it? Practice.**

Placement Test Scoring Sheet for *Ferno the Fire Dragon*

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____
Teacher: _____ Tester: _____
Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) _____ Errors: _____ Accuracy % _____
Placement: _____
Comments: _____

Tom stared hard at his enemy. " <u>Surrender,</u>	7
<u>villain!</u> " he cried, waving his sword above his head.	16
"Surrender, or taste my blade!"	21
The sword was only a poker, and his enemy was	31
a sack of hay hanging from a tree in the heart of	43
the wood. But then, Tom was not a <u>knight</u> . He	53
was training to be a <u>blacksmith</u> . The closest he	62
came to thrilling quests was when he ran errands	71
for his uncle Henry, who worked the <u>village forge</u> .	80
Today, Tom was taking a sack of newly mended	89
tools to <u>Farmer Gretlin</u> . Along the way, he had	98
stopped in the forest to <u>practice</u> his sword-fighting	106
moves on the dummy he had made a few weeks	116
ago.	117

Excerpt from: Blade, Adam. Ferno the Fire Dragon. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007.