

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Free Baseball*. Students being tested should read from the actual novel not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the novel 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: $97 \text{ (wrpm)} - 4 \text{ (errors)} = 93$ divided by $97 = .958$ x $100 = 96\%$ accuracy.

Students reading at least 80 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this novel study. 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 novel for students to see.) **This book is called *Free Baseball*. Later, each of you will read part of page 1 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

This novel tells the story of Felix Piloto, a boy from Cuba who lives in the United States with his mother, his love for the game of baseball, and his search for the truth about his father.

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 1.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read part of this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Felix Piloto.)

This name is Felix Piloto. What name? *Felix Piloto*. Felix Piloto is the main character in this novel. Who is Felix Piloto? *The main character in this novel.*

(Touch under the divided word second.)

This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is second. What word? *Second*.

(Touch under the words out of character.) **These words are out of**

character. What words? *Out of character.* **If someone does something out of character, it means they are doing something they usually wouldn't do. What is another way of saying it was unusual for him to forget his homework?** *It was out of character for him to forget his homework.*

(Touch under the word anticipating.) **This word is anticipating. What word?** *Anticipating.* **If you are anticipating something, you are preparing for what you think is coming. What word means preparing for what you think is coming?** *Anticipating.*

(Touch under the word distracted.) **This word is distracted. What word?** *Distracted.* **Distracted means not paying attention. What does distracted mean?** *Not paying attention.*

(Touch under the word practicing.) **This word is practicing. What word?** *Practicing.* **Practicing means doing something over and over until you get better at it. What does practicing mean?** *Doing something over and over until you get better at it.*

(Touch under the words dead-fish bunts.) **These words are dead-fish bunts. What words?** *Dead-fish bunts.* **Dead-fish bunts are ground balls that travel only a few feet before rolling out of any fielder's reach. What is another way of saying ground balls that travel only a few feet before rolling out of any fielder's reach?** *Dead-fish bunts.*

5. **You will read part of this page aloud to me. I would like you to track under the words with your finger as you read aloud. You will read aloud for 1 minute. I will tell you when to stop reading. Be careful to read exactly what is on the page.** (Start the timer and record student errors as indicated above.)

Placement Test Scoring Sheet for *Free Baseball*

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

The place on earth <u>Felix Piloto</u> loved best was a spot of	12
red dirt two-thirds of the way toward third from <u>sec-</u>	22
<u>ond</u> . Deep in the hole, his body folded nearly in half, his	33
mitt dangling so close to the ground it blocked its own	44
shadow.	45
Which is why it was so unusual that he was wishing he was	58
somewhere else—so <u>out of character</u> for him to be caught off	70
guard when a high chopper nearly clipped him in the chin.	81
Felix was good at <u>anticipating</u> the odd bounce, but he'd been	92
<u>distracted</u> —looking at the sun, instead of at the plate—trying to	103
figure out what time it was and how soon he could ask to leave.	117
Plus, the Tigers were supposed to be <u>practicing dead-fish</u>	126
<u>bunts</u> , ground balls that traveled just a few feet before rolling	137
into no-mans-land out of any fielder's reach.	144

Excerpt from: Corbett, Sue. Free Baseball. New York, New York: Puffin Books, 2006