

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth?*. 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: $53 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 48$ divided by $53 = .903$ $\times 100 = 90\%$ accuracy.

Students reading at least 50 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this novel. 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 *Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth?*. Later, each of you will read part of the first chapter of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on the page that comes just before page 1.) **This novel is about a boy named Marvin Redpost who is in third grade.**

(Point to Marvin.) **What is this boy's name? *Marvin Redpost*. Marvin is in Mrs. North's class. Who is Marvin's teacher? *Mrs. North*.**

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 these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Marvin Redpost.) **This name is Marvin Redpost. What name? *Marvin Redpost*. Marvin Redpost is the main character in this story.**

(Touch under the name Mrs. North.)
This name is Mrs. North. What name?
Mrs. North. Mrs. North is Marvin's third grade teacher. Who is Mrs. North? Marvin's third grade teacher.

(Touch under the words cursive writing.)
These words are cursive writing. Often students learn cursive writing in third grade. (Write the name Marvin Redpost on the board or on a piece of paper using cursive writing.) **This is Marvin Redpost's name written in cursive writing.**

(Touch under the hyphenated word left-handed.) **This word is left-handed. What word?** *Left-handed. A person who is left-handed writes with his or her left hand. If Marvin is left-handed, which hand does he use when he writes?* *His left hand.*

(Touch under the word complained.)
This word is complained. What word?
Complained. If you complained, you said what you didn't like about something. What word means you said you didn't like something?
Complained.

(Touch under the divided word backwards.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is backwards. What word?**
Backwards. If something is backwards it is turned around the wrong way. (Write a backwards letter on the board or on a piece of paper.) **This letter is written backwards.**

5. **You will read part of these pages 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. 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 Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth?

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

<u>Marvin Redpost</u> put down his pencil. He	7
was the first one done.	12
He took his report to <u>Mrs. North</u> .	19
Mrs. North looked at it. "I can't read this,"	28
she said.	30
He had to copy it over. "Neater this time,	39
Marvin," said Mrs. North.	43
Marvin frowned.	45
He was in the third grade. His class had	54
been learning <u>cursive writing</u> .	58
"It's because I'm <u>left-handed</u> ," Marvin	64
<u>complained</u> . "It's impossible to write neatly	70
when you're left-handed. Everything is <u>back-</u>	77
<u>wards</u> ."	77
"I'm left-handed," said Mrs. North.	83

Excerpt from: Sachar, Louis. Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth? New York: Random House, 1992.