

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Arthur Accused!* 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: $76 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 71$ divided by $76 = .934$ x $100 = 93\%$ accuracy.

Students reading at least 50 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 *Arthur Accused!* 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 front cover.) **In this novel Arthur's friend Buster is a detective, looking for a crime to solve.** (Point to the character with glasses.) **This is Arthur. What is this character's name?** *Arthur.* (Point to the character wearing the hat.) **This is Buster. He is a rabbit who is Arthur's best friend. What is this character's name?** *Buster.*

Detectives are characters who look for crimes and try to solve them. Who are detectives? *Characters who look for crimes and try to solve them.*

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 pages 4 and 5.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on pages 4 and 5. We will practice these hard words before you read these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Arthur.) **This name is Arthur. What is this name?** *Arthur. Arthur is an aardvark. What kind of animal is Arthur? An aardvark.*

(Touch under the name Buster.) **This name is Buster. What is this name?** *Buster. Buster is a rabbit. What kind of animal is Buster? A rabbit.*

(Touch under the word goofy.) **This word is goofy. What word? Goofy. When something is goofy, it is silly. What word can you use to describe something that is silly? Goofy.**

(Touch under the word fedora.) **This word is fedora. What word? Fedora. A fedora is a hat. What is a fedora? A hat. A fedora is a soft hat with a brim. Fedoras are usually worn by men. Who usually wears a fedora? Men.** (Show the student the fedora on the cover.) **This hat is a fedora.**

(Touch under the words detective kit.) **These words are detective kit. A detective is a character who looks for crimes and tries to solve them. Who is a detective? A character who looks for crimes and tries to solve them. A detective kit would be group of things a detective would use to help him or her solve a crime.**

(Touch under the word information.) **This word is information. What word? Information. Information is the facts or true things you know about something. What do you call the facts or true things you know about something? Information.**

(Touch under the word peered.) **This word is peered. What word? Peered. Peered means looked. What word means looked? Peered.**

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. 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 *Arthur Accused!*

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

“Hey, <u>Arthur!</u> ” yelled <u>Buster</u> as he ran	7
down the hall.	10
“What’s with the <u>goofy</u> hat?” asked	16
Arthur.	17
“This hat is not goofy,” said Buster.” It’s	25
a <u>fedora</u> — part of my new <u>detective kit</u> .	33
I’ve been snooping — ah, looking for	39
crimes.”	40
“Have you found any?”	44
“No.” Buster pushed back the brim of	51
his hat. “But I did pick up some secret	60
<u>information</u> .”	61
He <u>peered</u> to the left and right, making	69
sure no one else was listening.	75
“You promise this will go no further?”	82
Arthur nodded.	84
Buster leaned forward. “Third–grade	89
picnic this Friday,” he whispered.	94
Arthur rolled his eyes. “I know that,	101
Buster. There have been signs up for two	109
weeks.”	110

Excerpt from: Brown, Marc. *Arthur Accused!*. Canada: Little, Brown and Company, 1998.