

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Horrible Harry and the Dungeon*. 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 *Horrible Harry and the Dungeon*. 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 page 2.) **In this novel we read about the adventures of Harry, who is the class clown from Room 2B at South School. (Point to the boy sitting at the desk.) This boy's name is Harry. What is this boy's name? *Harry*. Harry is always up to something, usually something that might get him into trouble. (Point to the woman.) This woman is Harry's teacher Miss Mackle. What is this woman's name? *Miss Mackle*. Who is Miss Mackle? *Harry's teacher*.**

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 7.)
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 word perfectly.) **This word is perfectly. What word?** *Perfectly*. **One meaning for perfectly is completely. What word means completely?** *Perfectly*. **If I told you to stand perfectly still, what would you do?** Idea: *Stand completely still, without moving at all.*

(Touch under the name Miss Mackle.) **This name is Miss Mackle. What name?** *Miss Mackle*. **Who is Miss Mackle?** *Harry's teacher.*

(Touch under the name Song Lee.) **This name is Song Lee. What name?** *Song Lee*. **Song Lee is a girl in Harry's class. Who is Song Lee?** *A girl in Harry's class.*

(Touch under the name Mr. Cardini.) **This name is Mr. Cardini. What name?** *Mr. Cardini*. **Mr. Cardini is the principal of South School. Who is the principal of South School?** *Mr. Cardini.*

(Touch under the divided word announcement.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is announcement. What word?** *Announcement*. **When someone makes an announcement, she tells everyone about something special that has happened. What does someone do when he tells everyone about something special that has happened?** *Makes an announcement.*

(Touch under the word jostle.) **This word is jostle. What word?** *Jostle*. **Jostle means to move or to bump against something. What word means to move or to bump against something?** *Jostle.*

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 *Horrible Harry and the Dungeon*

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

Everyone turned and looked at the	6
giant yellow net cage that hung in the	14
middle of the room. The butterfly was	21
<u>perfectly</u> still. Its wings were pointing	27
straight up.	29
<u>Miss Mackle</u> clapped her hands. “Look	35
at our beautiful painted lady! <u>Song</u>	41
<u>Lee</u> , you’re my helper today. Please go	48
get <u>Mr. Cardini</u> . Tell him we have good	56
news in Room 2B.”	60
As soon as Song Lee left the room,	68
Miss Mackle made an important <u>an-</u>	74
<u>nouncement</u> . “Don’t forget about this	78
final stage of the butterfly. It needs	85
time to dry its wings before it flies, so	94
don’t anyone <u>jostle</u> the net cage or	101
touch a wing.”	104
“Yes Miss Mackle,” we all said.	110

Excerpt from: Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry and the Dungeon*. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1996.