

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Buried Bones Mystery*. (*Note: This series was originally published as *Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs*. It has been renamed Clubhouse Mysteries. The book cover is different, but the inside content is the same as the original series.) 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 (wrpm) – 5 (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 part of a series called Clubhouse Mysteries (or Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs if that is the version you have). The Black Dinosaurs are a group of middle school boys who work together to solve mysteries. Rico thinks his family is very ordinary. He thinks his friend Ziggy's house and family are very different from his own. Later, each of you will read part of chapter one from this novel that tells about Ziggy's house and family to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

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 2.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice some of the hard words before you read part of this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Ziggy's house.)
These words are Ziggy's house. What words? *Ziggy's house*. Whose house do these words tell about? *Ziggy's house*.

(Touch under the word assortment.)
This word is assortment. What word? *Assortment*. An assortment is a collection of different things. What word means a collection of different things? *Assortment*.

(Touch under the word inviting.) **This word is inviting. What word? *Inviting*. If something is inviting, it makes you feel welcome. What word means makes you feel welcome? *Inviting*.**

(Touch under the name Rico.) **This name is Rico. What name? *Rico*. Rico is one of Ziggy's friends. Who is Rico? *One of Ziggy's friends*.**

(Touch under the name Raphael.) **This name is Raphael. What name? *Raphael*. Raphael is Ziggy's uncle. Who is Ziggy's uncle? *Raphael*.**

(Touch under the divided word looking.)
This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is looking. What word? *Looking*.

(Touch under the word confused.) **This word is confused. What word? *Confused*. Confused means unable to think clearly. What word means unable to think clearly? *Confused*.**

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 *The Buried Bones Mystery*

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

But <u>Ziggy's house</u> —now that was another story	8
It was huge, brightly painted, and cheerful. Ziggy's	16
mom sometimes planted flowers and sometimes	22
vegetables in the front yard, so there was an odd	32
<u>assortment</u> of tomato plants, roses, corn, and	39
lilies growing together. The grass was cut whenever	47
someone thought about it. One summer it had	55
even been kept short by Ziggy's uncle Raphael's	63
pet goat. Trimmed or not, it always looked soft and	73
<u>inviting</u> , and was the perfect place to stop and rest	83
on a hot day.	87
Ziggy's doorbell didn't work, so <u>Rico</u> knocked	94
on the screen door. <u>Raphael</u> came to the door <u>look-</u>	104
ing sleepy and <u>confused</u> . His hair, long and braided,	112
hung down over his eyes.	117

Excerpt from: Draper, Sharon M. The Buried Bones Mystery. New York: Simon & Shuster Inc. 2006.