

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Awesome Aquarium Mystery*. 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 *The Awesome Aquarium Mystery*. 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.**

Carole Marsh, the author of this book, likes to use real children, other real people, and real places in her mysteries. The awesome aquarium in this story is the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia. The real children and real people in this story are her grandchildren, her husband, and herself.

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 2 and 3.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the word aquarium.) **This word is aquarium. What word? *Aquarium*. An aquarium is a building in which fish and other water animals are kept and shown to people. What word means a building in which fish and other water animals are kept and shown to people? *Aquarium*.**

(Touch under the name Mimi.) **This name is Mimi. What name? *Mimi*. Mimi is Grant and Christina's grandmother. Who is Grant and Christina's grandmother? *Mimi*.**

(Touch under the name Little Orphan Annie.) **This name is Little Orphan Annie. What name? *Little Orphan Annie*. Little Orphan Annie was a character in a comic strip. She had lots of curly red hair. Who had lots of curly red hair? *Little Orphan Annie*.**

(Touch under the name Grant.) **This name is Grant. What name? *Grant*.**

(Touch under the name Christina.) **This name is Christina. What name? *Christina*.**

Grant and Christina are Mimi's grandchildren. Who are Mimi's grandchildren? *Grant and Christina*.

(Touch under the word mystery.) **This word is mystery. What word? *Mystery*. A mystery is a story about a puzzling event, such as an unsolved crime. What do you call a story about a puzzling event, such as an unsolved crime? *A mystery*.**

5. **You will read part of pages 2 and 3 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 Awesome Aquarium Mystery*

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

And as if he had cast a magic spell, the doors	11
to the new <u>aquarium</u> did open. The lucky	19
ticketholders waiting out in the drizzling rain	26
cheered.	27
“We’re pretty near the front of the line,” said	36
<u>Mimi</u> . “It won’t take us too long to get inside.”	46
Their grandmother swiped at her hair, which was	54
getting curlier by the minute. “I hope!” she	62
added. “Or I will look just like <u>Little Orphan</u>	71
<u>Annie</u> , and what will the fish think of that?”	80
<u>Grant</u> and <u>Christina</u> giggled. Their	85
grandmother Mimi was a famous children’s	91
<u>mystery</u> book writer. Papa was her Big Helper.	99
She had promised that she was just visiting the	108
new aquarium, and had no plans to write a new	118
mystery book. But Grant and Christina knew	125
better.	126

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