

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the book *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*. Students being tested should read from the actual book not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the book 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 80 wrpm with 90% accuracy can be placed in this book. 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 book for students to see.) **This book is called *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*. Later, each of you will read part of page 8 of this book aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Show students the illustration on page 9.) **This book tells the story of what it was like for immigrants who came to the United States from other countries through Ellis Island. Ellis Island was an immigration center located in New York Harbor. This book tells a true story, so it is a non-fiction book. What kind of book is *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*? A non-fiction book.**

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the book open to page 8.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Ellis Island.) **This name is Ellis Island. What name? *Ellis Island*. Ellis Island is located in New York Harbor. Where is Ellis Island located? *In New York Harbor*.**

(Touch under the word immigration.)
This word is immigration. What word? *Immigration. Immigration is the movement of people to a new country. What word means the movement of people to a new country?* *Immigration.*

(Touch under the name New York Harbor.) **This name is New York Harbor. What name?** *New York Harbor.*

(Touch under the word detained.) **This word is detained. What word?** *Detained. Detained means held for a while. What word means held for a while?* *Detained.*

(Touch under the word deported.) **This word is deported. What word?** *Deported. Deported means rejected and sent back. What word means rejected and sent back?* *Deported.*

(Touch under the name Castle Garden.) **This name is Castle Garden. What name?** *Castle Garden. Before the Ellis Island Immigration Center opened, immigrants had been examined at Castle Garden. Where were immigrants examined before the Ellis Island Immigration Center opened?* *Castle Garden.*

(Touch under the name Manhattan Island.) **This name is Manhattan Island. What name?** *Manhattan Island. Castle Garden was located on the tip of Manhattan Island. Where was Castle Garden located?* *On the tip of Manhattan Island.*

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 *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*

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

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| <u>Ellis Island</u> was an <u>immigration</u> center located in <u>New</u> | 9 |
| <u>York Harbor</u> . Millions of newcomers passed through | 16 |
| its gates and were examined by doctors and legal | 25 |
| inspectors. Some were allowed to enter the United | 33 |
| States right away, some were <u>detained</u> (held for a | 42 |
| while), and some were <u>deported</u> (rejected and sent | 50 |
| back). | 51 |
| Before Ellis Island opened, immigrants had been | 58 |
| examined at <u>Castle Garden</u> at the tip of <u>Manhattan</u> | 67 |
| <u>Island</u> . At one time Castle Garden had been a fort, | 77 |
| then a concert hall. In 1855 it was turned into an | 88 |
| immigration center. Thirty-five years later, it was no | 97 |
| longer big enough to handle the thousands of new | 106 |
| immigrants arriving daily. | 109 |

Excerpt from: Levine, Ellen. *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.