

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Scraps of Time: Abby Takes a Stand*. 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 *Scraps of Time: Abby Takes a Stand*. Later, each of you will read part of the introduction or prologue to this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

Although this story is fiction, it is based on events that actually happened a long time ago. Fiction that is based on events that actually happened a long time ago is called historical fiction. What do we call fiction that is based on events that actually happened a long time ago?
Historical fiction.

This historical novel is set in 1960, during the days of lunch counter sit-ins in Nashville, when African Americans were challenging rules that said they could not eat in certain restaurants. The story of those times is told through the eyes of ten-year-old Abby.

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 pages 2 and 4. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the divided word mothballs.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is mothballs. What word? *Mothballs*. Mothballs are small strong-smelling balls used for keeping moths away from clothing and other materials. What do you call small strong-smelling balls used for keeping moths away from clothing and other materials? *Mothballs*.**

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

Touch under the name Trey.) **This name is Trey. What name? *Trey*.**

(Touch under the word allergies.) **This word is allergies. What word? *Allergies*. Allergies are reactions to certain foods and things. Sneezing, itching, and skin rashes are signs of allergies. If you sneeze or have itchy skin and rashes when you are near certain foods or things, you might be suffering from....*allergies*.**

(Touch under the name Mattie Ray.) **This name is Mattie Rae. What name? *Mattie Rae*.**

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

(Touch under the name THE MONKEY BAR.) **This name is THE MONKEY BAR. What name? *THE MONKEY BAR*. This name is written all in capital letters because it is the name of a restaurant. Why is this name written all in capital letters? *Because it is the name of a restaurant*.**

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

(Touch under the name Nashville, Tennessee) **This name is Nashville, Tennessee What name? *Nashville, Tennessee*. This story takes place in Nashville, Tennessee. Where does this story take place? *Nashville, Tennessee*.**

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 *Abby Takes a Stand*

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

The attic smelled old with a hint of <u>moth-</u>	9
<u>balls</u> . <u>Aggie</u> loved the smell, but it made <u>Trey</u>	17
sneeze. He had <u>allergies</u> .	21
“This whole attic is like a big scrapbook,”	29
said Aggie.	31
<u>Mattie Rae</u> spotted a menu. It was shiny <u>plas-</u>	40
<u>tic</u> and decorated with little monkeys swinging	46
from hoops. She picked it up. Across the top in	56
fun lettering was the name <u>THE MONKEY BAR</u> .	64
“This looks like a good scrap,” she said.	72
<u>Gee</u> laughed. “Funny you picked up that old	80
menu. It’s from a restaurant that was in	88
<u>Nashville, Tennessee</u> .”	90
“That’s where you lived once, right?” Trey	97
asked.	98
“Yes. That’s right. The restaurant closed	104
years ago. But in nineteen sixty, it was the place	114
children wanted to go, especially if you were ten	123
years old like a girl name Abby.”	130

Excerpt from: McKissack, Patricia C. Abby Takes a Stand. New York: Penguin Group, 2005.