

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Most Beautiful Place in the World*. 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: $97 \text{ (wrpm)} - 4 \text{ (errors)} = 93$ divided by $97 = .958$ x 100 = 96% accuracy.

Students reading at least 80 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 Most Beautiful Place in the World*. Later, each of you will read part of page 14 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

In this book, Juan, a young boy who lives in Guatemala, is telling the story of what his life is like. You will probably find that his life is very different from yours.

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 14.)
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 San Pablo.) **This name is San Pablo. What name? San Pablo. Juan lives in the town of San Pablo.**

(Touch under the word ferryboat.) **This word is ferryboat. What word? Ferryboat. A ferryboat is a boat that takes people across a body of water like a lake or a river. What kind of boat takes people across a body of water like a lake or a river? A ferryboat.**

(Touch under the word canoe.) **This word is canoe. What word? *Canoe*. A canoe is a small boat that is pointed on both ends and is moved with paddles. What kind of small boat is pointed on both ends and is moved with paddles? *A canoe*.**

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

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 Most Beautiful Place in the World*

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

<u>San Pablo</u> is on a big lake with seven other	10
towns around it. People get from one	17
town to another mostly by <u>ferryboat</u> or	24
<u>canoe</u> . There's a road, but it's not a good	33
one.	34
I've never been in any of the other	42
towns, only San Pablo. Still, at night I	50
like to go down by the lake and look at	60
the lights of the fishing canoes on the <u>black-</u>	69
<u>water</u> , and the lights of the other towns	77
glowing at us across the lake, and the	85
thousands of stars in the sky. It seems like	94
every light is saying, "You're not alone.	101
We're here too."	104

Excerpt from: Cameron, Ann. *The Most Beautiful Place in the World*. New York, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1988.