

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. 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 *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. Later, each of you will read part of pages 10 and 11 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

***Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* is a story based on the life of a real girl named Sadako who lived in Japan from 1943 until 1955. She lived in Hiroshima, a city that had been bombed by an atomic bomb near the end of World War II.**

### 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 10.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the word carnival.) **This word is carnival. What word? Carnival. A carnival is a celebration similar to a fair. What is a carnival? A celebration similar to a fair.**

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

(Touch under the words memorial day.) **These words are memorial day. What words?** *Memorial day. A memorial day is a special day when people gather together to remember those who died during the war. Memorial days are very serious times.*

(Touch under the name Mr. Sasaki.) **This name is Mr. Sasaki. What name?** *Mr. Sasaki. Mr. Sasaki is Sadako's father. Who is Mr. Sasaki?* *Sadako's father.*

(Touch under the names Sadako chan and Oba chan.) **These names are Sadako chan and Oba chan. What names?** *Sadako chan and Oba chan.*

**The word chan means dear in Japanese. What does the word chan mean in Japanese?** *Dear. So Sadako chan means dear Sadako. What does Sadako chan mean?* *Dear Sadako.*

**Oba means Grandmother. What does Oba mean?** *Grandmother. So what does Oba chan mean?* *Dear Grandmother.*

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 *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes***

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

Rushing like a whirlwind into the kitchen	7
Sadako cried, "Oh, Mother! I can hardly wait to	16
go to the <u>carnival</u> . Can we please hurry with <u>break-</u>	26
<u>fast</u> ?"	26
Her mother was busily slicing pickled	32
radishes to serve with the rice and soup. She	41
looked sternly at Sadako. "You are eleven years old	50
and should know better," she scolded. "You must	58
not call it a carnival. Every year on August sixth	68
we remember those who died when the atom	76
bomb was dropped on our city. It is a <u>memorial</u>	86
<u>day</u> ."	87
<u>Mr. Sasaki</u> came in from the back porch.	95
"That's right," he said. " <u>Sadako chan</u> , you must	103
show respect. Your own grandmother was killed	110
that awful day."	113
"But I do respect <u>Oba chan</u> ," Sadako said.	121
"I pray for her spirit every morning. It's just that	131
I'm so happy today."	135

Excerpt from: Coerr, Eleanor. *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. New York, New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1977.