

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Charlotte's Web*. 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 *Charlotte's Web*. Later, each of you will read part of page 1 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

The first page of Chapter 1 introduces you to the Arable family, who own the farm where the story of the amazing friendship between Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider takes place. Fern is one of the main characters in this story.

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 1.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on this page. We will practice these hard words before you read part of this page aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Mrs. Arable.) **This name is Mrs. Arable. What name? Mrs. Arable. Mrs. Arable is Fern's mother. Who is Mrs. Arable? Fern's mother.**

(Touch under the word continued.) **This word is continued. What word? Continued. Continued is another way of saying said. What is another way of saying said? Continued.**

(Touch under the word runt.) **This word is runt. What word? Runt. A runt is a very small, weak animal that's born with larger, healthier brothers and sisters. What is a very small, weak animal that's born with larger, healthier brothers and sisters called?**
A runt.

(Touch under the words *do away with it*.) **When someone says they are going to do away with it, they mean they are going to kill it.**

(Touch under the word probably.) **This word is probably. What word? Probably. Probably means most likely or certainly. What does probably mean? Most likely or certainly.**

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 *Charlotte's Web*

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

Where's Papa going with that ax?"	6
said Fern to her mother as they	13
were setting the table for breakfast.	19
"Out to the hoghouse," replied	24
<u>Mrs. Arable</u> . "Some pigs were born last night."	32
"I don't see why he needs an ax," <u>continued</u> Fern,	42
who was only eight.	46
"Well," said her mother, "one of the pigs is a <u>runt</u> .	57
It's very small and weak, and it will never amount to	68
anything. So your father has decided to do away with	78
it."	79
" <u>Do away with it?</u> " shrieked Fern. "You mean <i>kill</i>	88
it? Just because it's smaller than the others?"	96
Mrs. Arable put a pitcher of cream on the table.	106
"Don't yell, Fern!" she said. "Your father is right. The	116
pig would <u>probably</u> die anyway."	121
Fern pushed a chair out of the way and ran outdoors.	132
The grass was wet and the earth smelled of springtime.	142
Fern's sneakers were sopping by the time she caught	151
up with her father.	155

Excerpt from: White, E. B.. Charlotte's Web. New York, New York: Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 1952.