

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Freedom Crossing*. 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 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 100 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 *Freedom Crossing*. Later, each of you will read part of page 3 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

The underground railroad was not a real train line. It was a way for slaves to secretly escape to Canada where there was no slavery. This novel is about the underground railroad. In this novel, Laura has just returned to her home in North Carolina after living the southern United States for four years. She doesn't realize her family's home in North Carolina is part of the underground railroad. In the part of the story you will read to me, she has heard strange voices in the kitchen speaking to her brother Bert.

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 3.)
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 Bert.) **This name is Bert. What name? Bert. Bert is one of the main characters in this story.**

(Touch under the word fetch.) **This word is fetch. Fetch means get. What does fetch mean? *Get*. If you go to fetch some tea; you go to get some tea. What do you do if you go to fetch some tea? *I go to get some tea*.**

(Touch under the words draw the curtains.) **These words are draw the curtains. What words? *Draw the curtains*. When you draw the curtains, you close them. What do you do when you draw the curtains? *I close them*.**

(Touch under the name Laura.) **This name is Laura. What name? *Laura*. Laura is another one of the main characters in this story.**

(Touch under the word hurriedly.) **This word is hurriedly. What word? *Hurriedly*. If you do something hurriedly, you do it quickly. How do you do something if you do it hurriedly? *Quickly*.**

(Touch under the words lighted a lamp.) **These words are lighted a lamp. What words? *Lighted a lamp*. During the time this story takes place there was no electricity. People used candles and kerosene lamps that burned oil to light their homes. So, if you lighted a lamp, you used a match to light a kerosene lamp.**

(Touch under the word partially.) **This word is partially. What word? *Partially*. If a door is open partially, it is open just a little bit. How far open is a door if it is open partially? *Just a little bit*.**

(Touch under the name Martin Paige.) **This name is Martin Paige. What name? *Martin Paige*. Martin Paige is another one of the main characters in this story.**

(Touch under the words North Carolina.) **These words are North Carolina. What words? *North Carolina*. North Carolina is a state in the eastern United States. Where is North Carolina? *In the eastern United States*.**

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 *Freedom Crossing*

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

Someone was in	3
the kitchen talking to <u>Bert</u> , but the voices were	12
so low she couldn't make out what was being said.	22
As she padded down the hall to the stairs, she	32
heard Bert say, "I'll <u>fetch</u> a lamp."	39
A deep voice answered quickly, "Wait, first let	47
me <u>draw the curtains</u> ."	51
That voice—it had a familiar ring! <u>Laura</u> still	60
wasn't sure who was speaking, but she had the	69
happy feeling that there was an old friend in the	79
kitchen.	80
Already her bare feet were numb, and she	88
shook with the cold. <u>Hurriedly</u> she returned to	96
her room for slippers and a robe and then hurried	106
back to the stairs, eager to join Bert and the	116
visitor.	117
Someone had <u>lighted a lamp</u> , for now a glow of	127
light came through the <u>partially</u> opened door at	135
the foot of the stairs.	140
The deep voice was saying, "This is Martin.	148
<u>Martin Paige</u> . He's had a long, hard trip from	157
<u>North Carolina</u> ."	159

Excerpt from: Clark, Margaret Goff. Freedom Crossing. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc., 1980.