

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Journey to Jo'Burg*. 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 90 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 *Journey to Jo'Burg*. Later, each of you will read part of pages 4 and 5 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

The setting of this story is in South Africa where many people live in poverty. Naledi and Tiro's baby sister is very sick so they must go find their mother to come home to take the baby to the hospital. First, they must make the long difficult journey from their grandmother's to the city of Johannesburg. You will read the part of the story to me where they are getting ready to leave.

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 4.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read parts of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the name Naledi pronounced Naw-lee-dee.) **This name is Naledi. What name? *Naledi*. Naledi is one of the main characters in this story. She is the big sister. What is the name of the big sister? *Naledi*.**

(Touch under the name Poleng pronounced Pō-lěng.) **This name is Poleng. What name? Poleng. Poleng is the friend who helps the children get ready to go on the journey. Who helps the children get ready for the journey? Poleng.**

(Touch under the name Nono pronounced Nō-nō.) **This name is Nono. What name? Nono. Nono is the children's grandmother. Who is the children's grandmother? Nono.**

(Touch under the name Tiro pronounced Tee-rō.) **This name is Tiro. What name? Tiro. Tiro is Naledi's younger brother. Who is Naledi's younger brother? Tiro.**

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

(Touch under the name Mma pronounced Maw.) **This name is Mma. What name? Mma. Mma is Naledi's and Tiro's mother. Who is Naledi's and Tiro's mother? Mma.**

(Touch under the divided name Mmangwane pronounced Mawng-waw-nee.) **This name is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This name is Mmangwane. What name? Mmangwane. Mmangwane means little mother in the Tswana language. In this story, she is probably one of the children's aunts. What word means little mother in the Tswana language? Mmangwane.**

(Touch under the name Dineo pronounced Dee-nay-ō.) **This name is Dineo. What name? Dineo. Dineo is Naledi's and Tiro's baby sister who is sick. Who is Naledi's and Tiro's baby sister? Dineo.**

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 *Journey to Jo'Burg*

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

The children went to find <u>Naledi's</u> friend <u>Poleng</u> , and	9
explained. Poleng was very surprised but agreed to help.	18
She would tell <u>Nono</u> once the children had gone and	28
she also promised to help their granny by bringing the	38
water and doing the other jobs.	44
"How will you eat on the way?" Poleng asked.	53
<u>Tiro</u> looked worried, but Naledi was confident.	60
"Oh, we'll find something."	64
Poleng told them to wait and ran into her house,	74
returning soon with a couple of sweet potatoes and a	84
bottle of water. The children thanked her. She was <u>in-</u>	94
<u>deed</u> a good friend.	97
Before they could go, Naledi had to get the last letter	108
<u>Mma</u> had sent, so they would know where to look for	119
her in the big city. Slipping into the house, Naledi took	130
the letter quietly from the tin without Nono or <u>Mma-</u>	140
<u>ngwane</u> noticing. Both were busy with <u>Dineo</u> as Naledi	148
slipped out again.	151

Excerpt from: Naidoo, Beverley. Journey to Jo'Burg. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1986.