

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Clay Marble*. 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 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 *The Clay Marble*. Later, each of you will read part of page 5 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

The novel *The Clay Marble* takes place in Southern Asia in early 1980. It tells the story of a family who fled their war-torn Cambodian village and moved to a refugee camp on the border between Cambodia and Thailand. It is here that Dara, the narrator of the story, becomes separated from her family.

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 5.)
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 Sarun pronounced sair-un.) **This name is Sarun. What name? *Sarun*. Sarun is Dara's older brother. Who is Sarun? *Dara's older brother*.**

(Touch under the divided word silently.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This word is silently. What word? *Silently*. Silently means completely quiet. What word means completely quiet? *Silently*.**

(Touch under the word spate.) **This word is spate. What word? *Spate*. Spate means a large quantity of something. What word means a large quantity of something? *Spate*.**

(Touch under the name Khmer Rouge pronounced Ka mair rūj.) **This name is Khmer Rouge. What name? *Khmer Rouge*. The Khmer Rouge was the Communist party that seized power in Cambodia. What was the name of the Communist party that seized power in Cambodia? *The Khmer Rouge*.**

(Touch under the name Vietnamese.) **This name is Vietnamese. What name? *Vietnamese*. People who live in or come from the country of Viet Nam are called Vietnamese. What name is given to the people who live in or come from Viet Nam? *Vietnamese*.**

(Touch under the divided name Sihanouk pronounced See a nook.) **This name is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. This name is Sihanouk. What name? *Sihanouk*. Prince Sihanouk was once the ruler of Cambodia. What was the name of the man who was once ruler of Cambodia? *Prince Sihanouk*.**

(Touch under the name Cambodia.) **This name is Cambodia. What name? *Cambodia*. Cambodia is a country in Southern Asia. What is the name of the country? *Cambodia*. Cambodia is southwest of Viet Nam and southeast of Thailand.**

(Touch under the word prosperous.) **This word is prosperous. What word? *Prosperous*. Prosperous means wealthy or successful. What word means wealthy or successful? *Prosperous*.**

(Touch under the word familiar.) **This word is familiar. What word? *Familiar*. If something is familiar you have seen it before. What word describes something you have seen before? *Familiar*.**

(Touch under the word kerosene.) **This word is kerosene. What word? *Kerosene*. Kerosene is a kind of fuel that is often used for heating, cooking, and lighting. What word names a kind of fuel that is often used for heating, cooking, and lighting? *Kerosene*.**

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 *The Clay Marble*

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

I thought of our village. <u>Sarun</u> was right, I admitted <u>si-</u>	11
<u>lently</u> . It was just an expanse of dried-up rice fields now,	22
with a crumbling temple and flimsy huts. In the latest <u>spate</u>	33
of fighting, the <u>Khmer Rouge</u> soldiers had even set fire to	44
our houses and rice barns, so that the invading <u>Vietnamese</u>	54
soldiers wouldn't be able to claim them. But that had left	65
us with nothing to eat, no rice seed with which to plant	77
our next crop of rice, not even a house to live in.	89
It had not always been like that, though.	97
I remembered happier times, when I was just two or	107
three years old, and the smiling round-faced Prince <u>Siha-</u>	117
<u>nouk</u> ruled <u>Cambodia</u> . Our little village was a peaceful and	126
<u>prosperous</u> place then, the rice fields green and calm, the	136
harvests plentiful. At weddings and on temple feast days,	145
I had sat curled in my mother's warm lap, nibbling at some	157
sticky rice and coconut, sleepily watching the <u>familiar</u> faces	166
of my father and brother, cousins, aunts, and grandparents	175
dancing by the light of a <u>kerosene</u> lamp in the temple	186
courtyard.	187

Excerpt from: Ho, Mingfong. The Clay Marble. New York: A Sunburst Book, Farrar Straus Giroux, 1991.