

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Other Side of Truth*. 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 Other Side of Truth*. 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 setting of this story is Nigeria, an African country.

After Nigeria's corrupt military government kills Sade's and Femi's mother, their father sends them to London to live with their uncle. This novel tells of their struggles to survive as refugees, and their efforts to reunite with their father.

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 Sade pronounced Sha-deh with your voice rising on the second syllable.) **This name is Sade. What name? Sade. Sade is a twelve-year-old girl. Who is Sade? A twelve-year-old girl.**

(Touch under the name Mr. Falana.) **This name is Mr. Falana. What name?** *Mr. Falana.* **Mr. Falana is a neighbor to the Solaja family in Nigeria. He is also the editor-in-chief of the paper that Sade's father writes for. Who is the Solaja's neighbor and editor-in-chief of the newspaper?** *Mr. Falana.*

(Touch under the name Solaja.) **This name is Solaja. What name?** *Solaja.* **Solaja is the last name of Sade and Femi. What is the last name of Sade and Femi?** *Solaja.*

(Touch under the divided word followed.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. The word is followed. What word?** *Followed.* **Followed means came after somebody. What word means came after somebody?** *Followed.*

(Touch under the words outspoken journalist.) **These words are outspoken journalist. What words?** *Outspoken journalist.* **An outspoken journalist is a writer for a newspaper who is not afraid to say what he or she thinks. What do you call a writer for a newspaper who is not afraid to say what he or she thinks?** *An outspoken journalist.*

(Touch under the divided word newspaper.) **This word is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line. The word is newspaper. What word?** *Newspaper.* **A newspaper is a paper that is printed daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising. What do you call a paper that is printed daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising?** *A newspaper.*

(Touch under the name Lagos.) **This name is Lagos. What name?** *Lagos.* **Lagos is the largest city in Nigeria. What is the name of the largest city in Nigeria?** *Lagos*

(Touch under the word suffocated.) **This word is suffocated. What word?** *Suffocated.* **If you feel suffocated by something, you feel very uncomfortable because there is not enough air to breathe. What word describes a feeling of not being able to breathe?** *Suffocated.*

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 Other Side of Truth*

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

Grief burst around them like a pierced boil. All about her,	11
<u>Sade</u> heard people repeat fragments of the story. <u>Mr. Falana</u> ,	21
one of their neighbors and also Papa's editor-in-chief, had	32
heard both the gunshots and the getaway car. In the deathly	43
hush that followed, he had peeped out from his own gate on	55
the other side of the road. Seeing the entrance to the <u>Solaja</u>	67
house wide open, he feared the worst and rushed across, <u>fol-</u>	78
<u>lowed</u> by his wife still in her dressing gown. It was he who	90
had helped Papa carry Mama inside. Now he had to hurry	101
away to warn his other staff. Papa was the most <u>outspoken</u>	112
<u>journalist</u> on <u>Speak</u> , one of the weekly newspapers in English,	122
but he might not be the only target. Even before any <u>news-</u>	134
<u>paper</u> headlines, the news would be darting by word and	143
mouth along the pavement, highways and cables of <u>Lagos</u> .	152
When the news reached Mama's friends at the hospital where	162
she worked, there would be no end of visitors. <u>Suffocated</u> by	173
arms and voices and with the echo of the gunshots still in her	186
head, Sade felt the urge to escape.	193

Excerpt from: Naidoo, Beverly. The Other Side of Truth. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2000.