

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Iqbal*. 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 *Iqbal*. Later, each of you will read part of pages 2 and 3 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

(Point to the statement above the picture of the young boy on the front cover of the book.) **This novel is based on the life of a young boy named *Iqbal Masih*." Although this novel is fictitious or make-believe, it is the story of a real person, "a courageous thirteen-year-old boy who knew that his life was worth more than a rug, that chaining children to looms to work hours without rest was not right, and that there was a way to stop the abuse."**

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 2.)
4. **Some of the hard words are underlined on these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read part of these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the word descend.) **This word is descend. What word? Descend. Descend means to go down. What word means to go down? Descend.**

(Touch under the word desperation.)
This word is desperation. What word? *Desperation*. **Desperation is the feeling you have when you are in such a bad situation that you will try anything to change it. What is the feeling called when you will try anything to change the bad situation you are in?** *Desperation*.

(Touch under the word necessarily.)
This word is necessarily. What word? *Necessarily*. **Necessarily means in every case. What word means in every case?** *Necessarily*.

(Touch under the word suspect pronounced sus PECT.) **This word is suspect. What word?** *Suspect*. **Suspect means to doubt something. What word means to doubt something?** *Suspect*.

(Touch under the word memories.) **This word is memories. What word?** *Memories*. **Memories are the things you remember. What word means the things you remember?** *Memories*.

(Touch under the word fantastic.) **This word is fantastic. What word?** *Fantastic* **You describe something as fantastic when it seems strange and wonderful or unlikely. What word means seeming strange and wonderful and unlikely?** *Fantastic*.

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 *Iqbal*

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

My grandmother and my mother used to say that	9
dreams come from an unknown area of heaven, far far	19
away, and they <u>descend</u> to earth when men call them.	29
They can bring pain or comfort, joy or <u>desperation</u> , or	39
sometimes they have no meaning and bring nothing.	47
But it's not <u>necessarily</u> true that only bad men receive	57
evil dreams and silly men empty ones. Who are we,	67
after all, to understand the ways of heaven? What's	76
really bad, my grandmother would say, is to receive no	86
dreams. It's like not receiving the warmth of someone	95
who is thinking of us even if they are far away.	106
I hadn't dreamed for months. I <u>suspect</u> many of us	116
had stopped dreaming, but were afraid to admit it:	125
We felt so alone in the mornings. So we invented	135
them, and they were always lovely dreams, full of light	145
and color and <u>memories</u> of home. We competed to see	155
who could invent the most <u>fantastic</u> ones, speaking	163
very fast with full mouths, until the mistress said,	172
"Enough already! Enough!"	175

Excerpt from: D'Adamo, Francesco. *Iqbal*. New York, New York: Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2001.