

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *King of the Wind*. 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 *King of the Wind*. Later, each of you will read part of page 9 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

**King of the Wind is the story of the Godolphin Arabian, the ancestor of thousands of famous race horses throughout the world.**

**The two main characters are Sham, the horse that would later become The Godolphin Arabian horse; and Agba, the horse's loyal friend and groom.**

### 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 9.)
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 word bugle.) **This word is bugle. What word? Bugle. A bugle is a loud brass horn. What is a bugle? A large brass horn. In England, a bugle is blown to let everyone know a horserace is ready to start.**

(Touch under the name Sir Barton.) **This name is Sir Barton. What name?** *Sir Barton. Sir Barton was a famous race horse. He was the first winner of the American Triple Crown. That means he won three hard races in a row. What is the name of the first racehorse to win the American Triple Crown?* *Sir Barton.*

(Touch under the word chestnut.) **This word is chestnut. What word?** *Chestnut. A chestnut horse has red hair. What color hair does a chestnut horse have?* *Red.*

(Touch under the name Man o' War.) **This name is Man o' War. What name?** *Man o' War. Man o' War was one of the greatest thoroughbred race horses that ever lived. He won 20 of the 21 races in which he competed. What is the name of this famous race horse?* *Man o' War.*

(Touch under the word stallion.) **This word is stallion. What word?** *Stallion. A stallion is a male horse. What is a stallion?* *A male horse.*

(Touch under the word opponent.) **This word is opponent. What word?** *Opponent. If two horses are running against each other in a race, they are opponents. An opponent is who you are trying to win against in a race. Who is an opponent?* *Who you are trying to win against in a race.*

(Touch under the divided words business, plunging, and Barton.) **These words are divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line.**

(Touch under the divided word business.) **This word is business. What word?** *Business.*

(Touch under the divided word plunging.) **This word is plunging. What word?** *Plunging.*

(Touch under the divided word Barton.) **This word is Barton. What word?** *Barton.*

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 *King of the Wind*

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

The <u>bugle</u> sounded. <u>Sir Barton</u> , a dark <u>chestnut</u>	8
horse, and <u>Man o' War</u> , the red-gold <u>stallion</u> , were	17
paraded past the judges' stand, past the grandstand,	25
past the stand where moving-picture men were	33
grinding their cameras. Man o' War heard the roar	41
of the crowds. He smelled his <u>opponent</u> . But his	50
eyes were fixed on the track, spread out clean and	60
inviting before him. He knew what it meant. <u>Busi-</u>	69
<u>ness!</u> <i>His</i> business. Racing! He had walked enough.	76
He was ready to go!	81
Now he was moving toward the barrier, <u>plung-</u>	89
<u>ing</u> against it nervously, trying to spring it. Sir <u>Bar-</u>	98
<u>ton</u> caught his excitement. He strained against the-	105
webbing. And almost at once it was sprung.	113
Like a two-horse team the golden-red horse and	123
the dark chestnut were off together.	129

Excerpt from: Henry, Marguerite. King of the Wind. New York, New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1948.