Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *A Single Shard*. 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 (wrpm) – 4 (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 *A Single Shard.* Later, each of you will read part of page 3 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

   The book *A Single Shard* takes place in Korea during the twelfth century. In this part of chapter 1, we are introduced to two of the main characters in the story, Tree-ear and Crane-man.

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 3.)

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 names Tree-ear and Crane-man.) **These names are Tree-Ear and Crane-man. What names?** *Tree-ear and Crane-man.*

   (Touch under the word hungered.) **This word is hungered. What word?** *Hungered.* **When you have had a strong desire or need for food we say you hungered for food. What word means you have had a strong desire or need for food?** *Hungered.*

(Touch under the words bulging pouch.) **These words are bulging pouch. What words?** *Bulging pouch.* **A pouch is a bag or sack. What is a pouch?** *A bag or sack.* **If something is full to overflowing we say it is bulging. So a sack that is full to overflowing is called a bulging pouch. What do we call a sack that is full to overflowing?** *A bulging pouch.*

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

(Touch under the word protruded.) **This word is protruded. What word?** *Protruded.* **Protruded means stuck out. What word means stuck out?** *Protruded.* **What does protruded mean?** *Stuck out.*

5. **You will read part of page 3 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
A Single Shard

Name of Student: _____   Date: _____

Teacher: _____   Tester: _____

Words Read Per Minute (wrpm) _____   Errors: _____   Accuracy % _____

Placement: _____

Comments: _____

"Eh, Tree-ear! Have you hungered well today?" Crane-	9
Man called out as Tree-ear drew near the bridge.	19
The well-fed of the village greeted each other politely	29
by saying, "Have you eaten well today?" Tree-ear and his	40
friend turned the greeting inside out for their own little	50
joke.	51
Tree-ear squeezed the bulging pouch that he wore at	61
his waist. He had meant to hold back the good news, but	73
the excitement spilled out of him. "Crane-man! A good	83
thing that you greeted me so just now, for later today we	95
will have to use the proper words!" He held the bag high.	107
"Tree-ear was delighted when Crane-man's eyes widened in	117
surprise. He knew that Crane-man would guess at once—	127
only one thing could give a bag that kind of smooth full-	139
ness. Not carrot-tops or chicken bones, which protruded	147
in odd lumps. No the bag was filled with *rice*.	157

Excerpt from: Park, Linda Sue. A Single Shard. New York, New York: Yearling, 2001.