

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the autobiography *Of Beetles and Angels*. Students being tested should read from the actual autobiography not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the autobiography 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 autobiography for students to see.) **This book is called *Of Beetles and Angels*. Later, each of you will read part of page 8 of this book aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

This book is an autobiography. It is the true story of Mawi Asgedom's life. The author of an autobiography is the person who the story is about.

This autobiography tells about the author's experiences as a refugee in Africa and America. There are many points in the story at which the author brings the reader back with him to his homeland. The part of the story you will read to me tells about a time Mawi got into trouble when he was young.

Hard Word Review

3. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the book open to page 8.)
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 Umsagata pronounced Ŭm-să-gă-tă.) **This name is Umsagata. What name? *Umsagata*. Umsagata is a small village in the African country of Sudan. What is Umsagata? *A small village in Sudan.***

(Touch under the word adobes.) **This word is adobes. What word? *Adobes*. Adobes are small houses built from bricks that have been made from straw and mud. What do you call small houses built from bricks that have been made from straw and mud? *Adobes*.**

(Touch under the words applied pressure.) **These words are applied pressure. What words? *Applied pressure*. If someone applied pressure to something, they pressed or pushed on it. What have you done if you have pressed or pushed on something? *Applied pressure*.**

(Touch under the word immobile.) **This word is immobile. What word? *Immobile*. Immobile means not moving. What word means not moving? *Immobile*.**

(Touch under the divided words anywhere and Sudan.) **Each of these words is divided into two parts because there is not enough room on the line.**

The first divided word is anywhere. What word? *Anywhere*.

The second divided word is Sudan. What word? *Sudan*. Sudan is the name of a country in north-east Africa. Where is Sudan? *In north-east Africa*.

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 *Of Beetles and Angels*

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

<u>Umsagata</u> had no paved roads, so it didn't attract many cars. We	12
walked or ran everywhere we went.	18
One time, though, a giant tractor pulled up. It was unlike	29
anything we had ever seen. Its wheels were the size of small	41
<u>adobes</u> !	42
After a while, the owner got out and entered a home. We	54
ran over to inspect the tires, wondering if what we had heard	66
was true: that if you took a sharp stone and <u>applied pressure</u> to	79
the tire's little air nozzle, you could empty out all of the air.	92
We grabbed little stones and pushed eagerly. Sure enough,	101
the air shot out of the tire like lava from a volcano.	113
The owner shot outside, shaking his fists in fury. We	123
bolted. For we knew that no tire pumps could found <u>any-</u>	134
<u>where</u> nearby. And who wants to be stuck in the middle of <u>Su-</u>	146
<u>dan</u> with a giant, <u>immobile</u> tractor?	151

Excerpt from: Asgedom, Mawi. *Of Beetles and Angels*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2001.