

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Stone Fox*. 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 them 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 their 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 *Stone Fox*. Later each of you will read part of pages 3 and 4 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

**In this novel, a young boy named Willy lives with his grandfather on a potato farm in Wyoming. The part you will read describes some of the fun Willy and his grandfather had together.**

#### 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 these pages. We will practice these hard words before you read these pages aloud to me.**

(Touch under the word ceiling.) **This word is ceiling. What word?** *Ceiling.* **The ceiling is the part of a room that is above your head. What is the ceiling?** *The part of a room that is above my head.*

(Touch under the word especially.) **This word is especially. What word?** *Especially.* **The word especially means mainly. What does the word especially mean?** *Mainly.*

(Touch under scarecrow.) **This word is scarecrow. What word?** *Scarecrow.* **A scarecrow is a figure of a person dressed in old clothes and set in a field to frighten birds away from crops. What do we call a figure of a person dressed in old clothes and set in a field to frighten away birds from crops?** *A scarecrow.*

(Touch under beard.) **This word is beard. What word?** *Beard.* **A beard is hair on the face below the mouth and on the lower cheeks. What is a beard?** *Hair on the face below the mouth and on the lower cheeks.*

(Touch under tears.) **This word is tears. What word?** *Tears.* **Tears are**

**liquid drops that fall from your eyes when you cry. We cry tears when we are sad, and sometimes we laugh so hard that we cry tears. What do we call liquid drops that fall from your eyes when you cry?** *Tears.*

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 *Stone Fox*

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

One day Grandfather wouldn't get out of bed. He just	10
lay there and stared at the <u>ceiling</u> and looked sad.	20
At first little Willy thought he was playing.	28
Little Willy lived with his grandfather on a small potato	38
farm in Wyoming. It was hard work living on a potato	49
farm, but it was also a lot of fun. <u>Especially</u> when	60
Grandfather felt like playing.	64
Like the time Grandfather dressed up as the	72
<u>scarecrow</u> out in the garden. It took little Willy an hour	83
to catch on. Boy, did they laugh. Grandfather laughed	92
so hard he cried. And when he cried his <u>beard</u> filled up	104
with <u>tears</u> .	106
Grandfather always got up real early in the morning.	115
So early that it was still dark outside. He would make a	127
fire. Then he would make breakfast and call little Willy.	137
"Hurry up or you'll be eating with the chickens," he	147
would say. Then he would throw his head back and	157
laugh.	158

Excerpt from: Gardiner, John Reynolds. Stone Fox. New York, New York: Harper Trophy, 1983.