

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Tuck Everlasting*. 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.)
3. **This book is called *Tuck Everlasting*. Later, each of you will read part of page 4 of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

This is a fantasy story that happened a very long time ago. Three of the main characters are introduced on this page. They are Mae Tuck, Winnie Foster, and a stranger.

Later, in the story, you will see the connections among these characters. The wood is an important part of this story. The author compares the wood to the hub or middle of a Ferris wheel. Like the hub of a Ferris wheel the wood is the center of how all these people are connected.

Reading Aloud the Passage

4. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the novel open to page 4.)
5. **You will read aloud from the top of this page 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 *Tuck Everlasting*

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

At dawn, Mae Tuck set out on her horse for the	11
wood at the edge of the village of Treegap. She was	22
going there, as she did once every ten years, to meet	33
her two sons, Miles and Jesse.	39
At noontime, Winnie Foster, whose family owned	46
the Treegap wood, lost her patience at last and de-	56
cided to think about running away.	61
And at sunset a stranger appeared at the Fosters'	70
Gate. He was looking for someone, but he didn't say	80
who.	81
No connection, you would agree. But things can	89
come together in strange ways. The wood was at the	99
center, the hub of the wheel. All wheels must have a	110
hub. A Ferris wheel has one, as the sun is the hub of	123
the wheeling calendar. Fixed points they are, and	131
best left undisturbed, for without them, nothing	138
holds together. But sometimes people find this out.	146
too late.	148

Excerpt from: Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. New York, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007.