

## Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The Hobbit*. 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:  $76 \text{ (wrpm)} - 5 \text{ (errors)} = 71$  divided by  $76 = .934$  x 100 = 93% 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 *The Hobbit*. Later, each of you will read part of the first chapter of this novel aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read this book.**

**Hobbits are imaginary creatures invented by the author J.R.R. Tolkien. Hobbits are small people-like creatures who live underground. The passage that you are going to read aloud to me describes the underground home of a hobbit.**

### Reading Aloud the Passage

1. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the story open to page 1.)
2. **You will read aloud from the top of this page. You will read 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 *The Hobbit*

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

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty,	14
wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor	27
yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or	42
to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort.	53
It had a perfectly round door like a porthole, painted	63
green, with a shiny yellow brass knob in the exact middle.	74
The door opened on to a tube-shaped hall like a tunnel: a	87
very comfortable tunnel without smoke, with panelled walls,	95
and floors tiled and carpeted, provided with polished chairs.	104
and lots and lots of pegs for hats and coats—the hobbit was	117
fond of visitors. The tunnel wound on and on, going fairly	128
but not quite straight into the side of the hill—The Hill, as all	142
the people for many miles round called it—and many little	153
round doors opened out of it, first on one side and then on.	166
another.	167

Excerpt from: J.R.R. Tolkien *The Hobbit*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1995.