

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the story *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Students being tested should read from the actual story not from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet. Underline the difficult words from the Placement Test Scoring Sheet in the copy of the story 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 story for students to see.)
3. **This story is called *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Later, each of you will read part of page 1 of this story aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read the whole story.**

This is a mystery story that is set in London, England in the 1800s. In the passage that you will read, we are introduced to one of the main characters, Mr Utterson. The author describes what Mr Utterson looks like and tells us a bit about his personality.

(Point to the abbreviation Mr at the beginning of the passage.) **This story is written using the British style so Mr does not end with a period.**

(Point to the underlined word theatre.) **This word is theatre. This is the British style of spelling for this word. When we read this story, you will see other words that use British spelling.**

Reading Aloud the Passage

4. (Note: This part of the placement test needs to be administered individually. Give the student a copy of the story open to page 1.)
5. **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 *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

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

<u>Mr</u> Utterson the lawyer was a man of rugged coun-	11
tenance, that was never lighted by a smile; cold, scanty and	21
embarrassed in discourse; backward in sentiment; lean, long, dusty,	30
dreary and yet somehow lovable. At friendly meetings, and when	40
the wine was to his taste, something eminently human beacons	50
from his eye; something indeed which never found its way into his	62
talk, but which spoke not only in these silent symbols of the after-	75
dinner face, more often and loudly in the acts of his life. He	89
was austere with himself; drank gin when he was alone, to mortify	101
a taste for vintages; and though he enjoyed the <u>theatre</u> , he had not	113
crossed the doors of one for twenty years. But he had an approved	126
tolerance for others; sometimes wondering, almost with envy,	134
at the high pressure of spirits involved in their misdeeds; and in	146
any extremity inclined to help rather than to reprove.	155

Excerpt from: Robert Louis Stevenson. *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. New York, New York, Penguin English Library, 2012.