

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *Animal Farm*. 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 story for students to see.)

3. **This novel is called *Animal Farm*. Later, each of you will read part of page 4 of this story aloud to me to help me decide if you are ready to read the whole novel.**

In this part of the story the farm animals are settling down in the barn to sleep for the night.

(Point to the underlined word tushes.)

This word is tushes (pronounced tūshes). **Tushes are long pointed teeth that stick out of a pig's mouth. We would usually call these tusks, so be careful when you read the word tushes.**

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 4.)
5. **You will read aloud from here** (point to where students are to start reading). **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 *Animal Farm*

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| At one end of the big barn, on a sort of raised plat-- | 13 |
| form, Major was already ensconced on his bed of straw | 22 |
| under a lantern, which hung from a beam. He was twelve | 33 |
| years old and had lately grown rather stout, but he was | 44 |
| still a majestic looking pig, with a wise and benevolent | 54 |
| appearance in spite of the fact that his tushes had never | 65 |
| been cut. Before long the other animals began to arrive - | 75 |
| and make themselves comfortable after their different | 82 |
| fashions. First came the three dogs, Bluebell, Jessie, and | 91 |
| Pincher, and then the pigs, who settled down in the | 101 |
| straw immediately in front of the platform. The hens | 110 |
| perched themselves on the window sills, the pigeons | 118 |
| fluttered up to the rafters, the sheep and cows lay down | 129 |
| behind the pigs and began to chew the cud. | 138 |

Excerpt from: George Orwell. *Animal Farm*. New York, New York, Signet Classics, 1996.