

Placement Test

Preparation: You will need a copy of the novel *The New Kid at School*. 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 50 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 New Kid at School*. 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.**

(Show students the illustration on page 3.) **In this novel a boy named Wiglaf is told by a minstrel that he is destined to be a mighty hero.**

(Point to the young boy.) **This boy's name is Wiglaf. What is this boy's name? *Wiglaf*.**

(Point to the man who is freezing cold.) **This man is the minstrel. Who is this man? *The minstrel*. A minstrel is a person who travels around singing, playing music, and reciting poetry. What do minstrels do? Ideas: *They travel around singing, playing music, and reciting poetry*. **Like dragons, minstrels are from stories that happen long ago.****

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 pages 4 and 5.)
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 minstrel.) **This word is minstrel. What word?**
Minstrel. You already know a minstrel is a person who travels around singing, playing music, and reciting poetry. What do minstrels do? Ideas: They travel around singing, playing music, and reciting poetry.

(Touch under the name Fergus.) **This name is Fergus. What name? Fergus. Fergus is Wiglaf's father. Who is Wiglaf's father? Fergus.**

(Touch under the name Molwena.) **This name is Molwena. What name? Molwena. Molwena is Wiglaf's mother. Who is Wiglaf's mother? Molwena.**

(Touch under the name Wiglaf.) **This name is Wiglaf. What name? Wiglaf. Wiglaf is the main character of the story. Who is the main character of the story? Wiglaf.**

(Touch under the word cockroach.) **This word is cockroach. What word? Cockroach. A cockroach is a kind of insect. What is a cockroach? A kind of insect.**

(Touch under the word tattled.) **This word is tattled. What word? Tattled. Tattled means told on someone. What word means told on someone? Tattled.**

(Touch under the word complained.) **This word is complained. What word? Complained. If you complained, you said what you didn't like about something. What word means you said you didn't like something? Complained.**

(Touch under the word bellowed.) **This word is bellowed. What word? Bellowed. Bellowed means shouted. What word means shouted? Bellowed.**

(Touch under the word sty.) **This word is sty. What word? Sty. A sty is a place where pigs are kept. What do we call a place where pigs are kept? A sty.**

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 *The New Kid at School*

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

“Please!” the <u>minstrel</u> begged through his	6
chattering teeth. “There must be <i>something</i> I	13
can do in return for a roof over my head.”	23
<u>Fergus</u> scratched his beard and tried to	30
think.	31
“He might kill rats for us, Fergus,”	38
<u>Molwena</u> suggested. “ <u>Wiglaf</u> won’t do that.”	44
“Wiglaf feels sorry for the rats,” one of the	53
younger brothers told the minstrel.	58
“Wiglaf won’t squish a <u>cockroach</u> ,” another	64
brother <u>tattled</u> . “He won’t even swat a fly.”	72
“Wiggie never wants to kill anything,”	78
<u>complained</u> a third. “I was pulling the leg off	87
a spider once, and—	91
“I have it!” Fergus <u>bellowed</u> suddenly. “The	98
minstrel can kill rats to earn his keep!” He	107
grinned. “Show him to the <u>sty</u> , Wiglaf!”	114
So Wiglaf did just that. And later on he	123
took a bowl of Molwena’s cabbage soup out	131
to the minstrel for his supper.	137

Excerpt from: McMullan, Kate. The New Kid at School. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1997.