

Teacher Copy

A-I Reading Assessment for Independent Reading Levels

Reader's Name _____	Grade _____	Date _____	Independent Level: Yes No
Big Mama and Grandma Ghana—Scholastic Books			
Level J 124 words			

Book Introduction: Show the cover of the book to the student and say this to the reader before her or she begins reading: *“Big Mama and Grandma Ghana is a story about a boy named Miles who has a grandmother who lives near him that he calls “Big Mama.” He has another grandmother that lives in an African country called Ghana. The boy calls her “Grandma Ghana.” Read to find about the boy and his two grandmothers.*

<p>Check the reading behaviors you notice the child using. These notes may not determine the reader's independent reading level, but will inform your teaching:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rereads and self-corrects at points of error.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monitors for all sources of information: checks to make sure what has been read makes sense, sounds right, and looks right.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reads with fluency and phrasing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uses an increasingly more challenging repertoire of graphophonic strategies to problem solve through text.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solves unknown words with relative ease.</p>	<p>Running Record: Record the reader's miscues (or errors) above the word as he or she reads.</p> <p>3. Big Mama takes care of me after school. She bakes peanut butter cookies for me. I lick the bowl.</p> <p>5. Big Mama loves to hear me read. Then I tell her all about my day at school. She tells me about the old days when my mom was little.</p> <p>6. We play checkers, just like Big Mama and my mom used to. Sometimes I win. Sometimes Big Mama wins. When she loses, she just laughs.</p> <p>9. When I eat dinner with Big Mama, she says, “Eat all your greens, Miles. They’ll make you strong!” If I eat them all, she gives me a cookie.</p> <p>10. My other grandma lives in Ghana, in Africa. She sends me presents when it’s my birthday. One night she calls with big news.</p> <p><i>Child reads the rest of the book silently. Say, “Read the rest of the book silently, and we will talk about the book when you are finished.”</i></p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"># of Errors</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Error MSV</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"># of SC</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">SC MSV</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 100px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# of Errors	Error MSV	# of SC	SC MSV					
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Accuracy Rate: Circle the number of miscues & percentage of words read correctly.

100%	99%	98%	97%	96%	95%
0 miscues	1 miscue	2 miscues	3 miscues	4 miscues	5 miscues

Total Number of Self Corrections:

Literal and Inferential Retelling

Say, "Retell the important parts of what you just read." Write notes regarding the student's retelling in this box and on the back of this page. If the child has trouble getting started, prompt the child to look at the text. Say to the child, "What happened first?" Make a note that you prompted their retelling.

Part 1: Listen to the reader's retelling for the following information and take note of the reader's answers, based on the retelling. If the retelling did not already contain the following information, ask the reader the following questions and take note of the answers.

1. *Literal Question:* What are some things the boy does with Big Mama?(Student must name at least three.)

2. *Literal Question:* What was Grandma Ghana's big news?

3. *Literal Question:* What is the same about both Big Mama and Grandma Ghana and the way they treat the boy, Miles.

4. *Inferential Question:* After Miles talked with Grandma Ghana on the phone, why did he think, "But I'm a little worried. I wonder what she is like."

The reader must answer at least three of these questions adequately in order to determine if this is the child's independent reading level. Try the other Level J text if the child could not answer at least three of these questions.

Fluency

At this level students should no longer be pointing under words with their finger. This list will also enable you to better evaluate their fluency in reading. Use the following questions to assess phrasing and fluency.

Did the reader track print with eyes instead of finger pointing?	Yes	No
Did the student respond to punctuation by changing his/her voice?	Yes	No
Did the reader use pitch, stress, and intonation when appropriate to approximate telling important or unusual information?	Yes	No
If the reader paused while reading, were the pauses brief?	Yes	No
At a point of difficulty, did the reader stop to problem-solve words on the run?	Yes	No

Final Score

Yes No The reader's accuracy rate was at least 96%.
 Yes No The reader answered at least three comprehension questions in Part 1 correctly.
 Yes No Did the retelling express the important parts in the text?
 Yes No The reader reads with some fluency.

If the answer is "Yes" to all four questions, this is the child's independent reading level.

Remainder of Big Mama and Grandma Ghana
(Illustrations are two page spreads with text on one page.)

Page 11

“I’m coming to visit you, Miles,”
Grandma Ghana tells me. “It will be
my first visit to America.”
“Okay,” I say. But I’m a little
worried. I wonder what she is like.

Page 13

Mom, Dad, and I pick up
Grandma Ghana at the airport.
She hugs Dad and Mom.

“Miles,” she asks, “can I give
you a hug?” She’s my grandma,
so I tell her okay.

Page 14

Later, we play a counting game
Grandma Ghana brought me. We
use seeds from Africa. Sometimes
I win. Sometimes she wins. When
she loses, she just laughs.

Page 16

“Your daddy and I played
This game when he was your age,”
Grandma Ghana says.

“Did you and Daddy ever see
A wild lion in Africa?” I ask.

“Yes,” she says, “in the zoo.
I live in the city, Miles.”

Page 19

We put the game away. Then
Grandma Ghana teaches me an
Ashanti song. We can hear Dad
singing along in the kitchen.

Page 20

When Big Mama comes, she hugs
Grandma Ghana. Then she gives
her a big box of peanut butter
cookies. Grandma Ghana gives Big
Mama an African basket. They both
give me a kiss.

Page 23

We eat African food and
American food for dinner.

“Eat all your greens, Miles.”
Big Mama says.

“They’ll make you strong like
a lion,” Grandma Ghana says.

Then they smile at each other.

Page 24

I eat all my greens. Big Mama
gives me one of her peanut butter
cookies. Grandman Ghana smiles
and gives me another cookie. I guess
grandmothers are the same all over
the world.

