

Reader's Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____ Excerpt from <i>The Van Gogh Cafe</i> , by Cynthia Rylant, pp. 32-37 Level S 404 words	Independent Level: Yes No Accuracy Rate: _____
---	---

Book Introduction: (*Say this to the reader before he or she begins the student copy of the text*)
 “Marc is an owner of a restaurant called the Van Gogh Café. The restaurant is located in a very old building. When you get to the line, you may read the rest silently. When you’re finished reading, I’ll ask you to retell what you read.”

<p>During & after the running record, you may make these observations & notes to inform instruction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Responds to punctuation by changing his/her voice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Self corrects before asking for help</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pauses while reading to think</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Flexible word-solver</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reads in phrases rather than word by word</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Miscues make sense</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Miscues fit the syntax or structure of the sentence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Miscues look similar to words in the text</p>	<p>Running Record: <i>For the first 100 words, record the reader’s miscues (or errors) above the word as he or she reads. Later, you may or may not code them, using miscue analysis (MSV). Stop when the child has made five miscues and go back to the previous level.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marc comes out of the kitchen to smile and greet his customers, and suddenly</p> <p>sees the elegant man at the small back table. And unlike everyone else who has remembered his good manners, Marc stops what he is doing and stares.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The man smiles shyly and looks away.</p> <p>Marc is staring because he knows who this is. He looks around the café to see if anyone else realizes who is among them. No one does. No one remembers this man’s movies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">But Marc remembers them all. Marc has seen all of the old silent films, the ones with Charles Chaplin (<i>100 words</i>) and Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">**** (Reader may read silently from this point on) ****</p> <p>He knows them by heart, and he knows the actors’ faces like he knows his daughter’s face, and Marc is <i>certain</i> who this elegant man in the café is.</p>
---	--

Teacher Copy: Assessment for Independent Reading Levels
Levels L-Z (Fiction/Narrative)

More observations & notes to inform instruction:

He is a star.

The breakfast hours pass and people go their way, to work, to the mall at the edge of town, back home to put up a tree.

The door of the Van Gogh Café opens and closes, opens and closes, and he stays on, looking out the window.

Marc cannot help himself. When there is no one left in the café except **(200 words)** the silent star, Marc walks over to his table.

“I know your work,” Marc says softly. “I love it. I love all your films.”

The old man blushes and smiles.

“Thank you,” he says.

Marc and the silent star talk about the old films. The silent star seems pleased, quietly thrilled, to talk of his work with someone who understands so well.

There is a moment or two when each is quiet, catching his breath.

“Why, sir, are you at the Van Gogh Café?” Marc gently asks.

The old man seems glad someone has asked. He reaches into his coat **(300 words)** and pulls forth an old photograph.

It is of a beautiful young man in a waistcoat and top hat, standing before an old theater. Marc looks carefully at the building in the picture.

“Is this...?”

“Yes,” replies the silent star.

The building is the Van Gogh Café. In 1923. When it was a theater.

“He and I did some shows here together, the summer we met.” The silent star smiles and puts the photograph back inside his coat.

“Today I am waiting for him,” he says.

Marc offers the star a fresh cup of tea and a piece of apple pie, which is gratefully accepted. Then Marc leaves the old **(400 words)** man to his waiting. **(404 words)**

Total miscues including self corrected: _____

Self-Corrections _____

Miscues reader did not self-correct: _____

Accuracy Rate: Circle the number of miscues the reader did not self correct.

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

96%-100% accuracy is necessary to determine the reader’s independent reading level. Try another text if the reader made 5 or more miscues.

** If the child makes the same miscue repeatedly, count it as one miscue.*

Teacher Copy: Assessment for Independent Reading Levels
Levels L-Z (Fiction/Narrative)

Literal and Inferential Retelling

Say, "In writing, retell the important parts of what you just read and answer the four questions. You may look back at the text if you need to." The reader will write the retelling and answers to Part 1 on the student copy. You may assess the reader's comprehension when finished. If the reader has difficulty writing the retelling or the answers to Part 1, you may complete any or all of this section orally.

Optional: 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 reader has trouble getting started, prompt him/her to look at the text. Say, "What happened first?" Make a note that you prompted their retelling.

Comprehension Questions Section:

The reader will answer these four questions on the student copy, along with the written retelling.

Optional: 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 remaining questions and take note of the answers.

1. *Literal Question:* What does Marc discover the Van Gogh Café used to be?

2. *Literal Question:* What does Marc do when he first sees the elegant old man?

3. *Inferential Question:* What kind of movies did the "silent star" star in?

4. *Inferential Question:* How do you think Marc feels about seeing the star at the café? What makes you think that?

The reader must answer at least three of these questions to determine if this is the child's independent reading level. Try another text if the child could not answer at least three of these questions.

Final Score

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Yes | No | Was the reader's accuracy rate at least 96%? |
| Yes | No | Did the reader read with fluency? |
| Yes | No | Did the reader answer at least three comprehension questions in the Comprehension Questions Section correctly? |
| Yes | No | Did the retelling express the important things that happened in the text? |

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

* Continue trying more difficult texts until you have found the child's highest independent level. *