

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

Reader's Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Excerpt from *Child of the Owl*, by Laurence Yep, pp. 3-4
 Level W 273 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)*
 "In this part of the book a daughter is visiting her dad, Barney, in the hospital after he was hurt in a fight. Please read aloud the first section. 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."

- During & after the running record, you may make these observations & notes to inform instruction**
- Responds to punctuation by changing his/her voice
 - Self corrects before asking for help
 - Pauses while reading to think
 - Flexible word-solver
 - Reads in phrases rather than word by word
 - Miscues make sense
 - Miscues fit the syntax or structure of the sentence
 - Miscues look similar to words in the text

Running Record: *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 can't remember when Barney's story began but all my life I'd heard this story about how this little girl and her father were going to hit it big one of these days, either in his gambling or in one of his real-estate deals that one of his drinking buddies was going to get up-- Barney was always their bosom buddy till the deal fell through.

And then he'd tell me how he was going to get that big penthouse apartment on Nob Hill over in San Francisco so we could see the fog coming in over the city and then **(100 words)** we'd turn around and look across the bay at the lights of Oakland, strung out like a shimmering golden river.

***** *(Reader may continue silently from this point on)* *****

And I wouldn't stop buying clothes, toys, comics, and records I wanted till I had filled up that apartment. And then we'd move to another. Somehow Barney never

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More observations & notes to inform instruction:

got around to what would happen after we ran out of things to buy and apartments to move into. But maybe that's because his story never really got off the ground.

I guess there used to be a mom, Jeanie by name, in the story too, but she must have dropped (*200 words*) out of it quick because she died when I was small. I don't remember her, though I've got a photo of her taken when Barney still had some hair. It was at some party and she was the pretty, smiling girl sitting next to Barney in his army uniform after he got back from World War II. Both of them held up plastic champagne glasses that didn't have champagne in them, only Schlitz. (*273 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.*

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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 story did Barney's daughter hear all her life?

2. *Literal Question:* What happened to Barney's wife?

3. *Inferential Question:* Why do you think Barney's story never really got off the ground?

4. *Inferential Question:* How would you describe Barney?

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. *