

Student Name Tim

Date: 5-21-08

Accuracy Scoring

       0-11: Independent     **12-23: Instructional**           24 or more: Frustration

<p>Kansas is not what one would call <sup>R</sup>picturesque. It is flat. So flat it could make some people a little crazy, people who need a hill now and then to keep their balance. But in Kansas at least things get noticed. The <sup>R</sup>flatness makes everything count and <sup>R</sup>not one thing slips by. That is why, if a possum was going to choose to hang upside down somewhere, Kansas would be a good choice. People would notice. And if the possum chose to hang outside <sup>of</sup> the window of the Van <sup>Goof Calf</sup>Gogh Café in Flowers. . . well then, everyone would start talking about magic. And that would be good for the possum, too.</p> <p>The Van <sup>Goof Calf</sup>Gogh Café is owned by a young man named Marc and his daughter, Clara. Clara is one reason for all of the magic in the <sup>calf</sup>café. She is ten and believes anything might happen.</p> <p>Marc bought the <sup>calf</sup>café seven years ago, and he is the one who painted purple hydrants <sup>← R</sup>all over the ladies' bathroom and put the sign above the <sup>cashier</sup>cash register. But the phonograph and the hen were already there when he arrived. Clara's mother doesn't like Kansas and she lives in New York City, where Clara visits her each June. But Clara preferred Kansas the moment she laid eyes on it. Kansas is like a <sup>← R</sup>tall <sup>tail</sup>person relaxing, she says. It seems right for her.</p>	<p><b>Errors</b></p> <p>I substitution</p> <p>11 substitution omission</p> <p>11 insertion substitution</p> <p>11 sub. sub.</p> <p>11 incorrect substitution</p> <p>1 substitution</p> <p>11 substitution</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Total Errors</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>

The Van Gogh Café: The Possum

Student Name Tim Date 5-21-08

<u>Accuracy</u> (from oral reading record) <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> Frustration	+	<u>Comprehension</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Independent (8-10) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instructional (6-7) <input type="checkbox"/> Frustration (5 or less)	=	<u>Total Passage Level</u> (use lowest of two scores) <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instructional <input type="checkbox"/> Frustration
--	---	--	---	---

Text Introduction/Instructions

This book is a collection of stories about things that happen in a small restaurant called the Van Gogh Café. The story you will read is about how an animal changes people's lives. Silently read the story called *The Possum* on pages 4-11. After you have finished, write a paragraph explaining how the possum worked magic on the people of Flowers, Kansas.

Discussion Questions

(Accept any reasonable answers that the student accurately supports with evidence from the text.)

- + T1. Who was the first person to see the possum? (Clara)  
*Clara*
- T2. How did Clara help her father in the café? (she took breakfast orders before she went to school)  
*by making magic*
- + T3. How do the people in the café react when they first see the possum? (they are curious, but not surprised; they go to the window and look; they say hello; they say "I wonder where he's from?")
- + T4. In the sentence that begins, "The possum begins to attract people," what does the word attract mean? (people come to see the possum; people are drawn to the possum)  
*to get attention like when someone does something funny, it attracts people to look at the person*
- T5. A sad man came into the café. Why was he sad? (his wife had died)  
*a story or something that he read*
- BT6. What is the "biggest story" about the man whose wife died? (after seeing the animals eating the food, he opens a home for stray animals; he sees a purpose (use, hope) for his life again)  
*he did something he changed by... I can't really think about it*
- 1/2 BT7. Name at least two ways that the possum changed the behavior of the people in the town? (people who are fighting are getting along; neighbors who argue, shake hands; people are feeding stray animals)  
*they were surprised - everyone wanted one and found out that possums aren't really dangerous - they started to talk about magic*
- 1/2 BT8. How did the possum continue to affect the town's people after it left? (still left food for the stray animals; continued to be nicer to each other, etc.)  
*they kept on talking to each other*
- x BT9. What does the author mean by "Clara thinks morning is the kindest time of day? (that the people are kind of sweet and sleepy; it's a pleasant and slow time of day)  
*it is the happiest time because people are most happy. are kind to one another*
- x BT10. Why do you think Clara prefers Flowers, Kansas to New York City? (Flowers is a calm, flat, relaxing place; not the hustle and bustle of a big city; she enjoys the people)  
*because Kansas is big and nice and peaceful and people can relax*