The Cloze Procedure

Purpose of the Strategy
Originated by Taylor (1953), a cloze passage contains systematically deleted words. The cloze procedure is used to (1) determine what students already know about a given topic and (2) to assess the suitability of a new text for students by testing their prior knowledge and language competence as they attempt to fill in the deletions.

Using the Cloze Procedure

ADMINISTRATION
Duplicate the cloze passage and distribute one blank copy to each student.

Emphasize the following:
1. Supply only one word for each blank
2. Guessing is encouraged and you should attempt to fill in all the blanks
3. Misspelling will be scored as correct as long as they are recognizable
4. The close test will not be timed
5. Before beginning, silently read through the entire text.

Read the passage aloud to students before they begin.

SCORING
Determine each student’s raw score in the following manner:
- Count only exact replacements as correct. Synonyms are incorrect.
- Misspellings are the only exception to the above rule. Do not penalize the student for any spelling mistakes.
- Inappropriate word endings are incorrect.
- The raw score will be the number of correct answers for each student.

To find a percentage, double the raw score (i.e. if there are 35 correct replacements, 35 X 2 = 70 % ). Use the chart below to interpret results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERPRETATION OF CLOZE PERCENTAGE SCORES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Level</td>
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<td>(Material is Too Easy)</td>
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Longmore, BYU, 2010
Stanley tried to sleep, not knowing when he’d get the chance again. He heard the showers and, later, the sounds of dinner. He heard the creaking of the Wreck Room door. His fingers drummed against the side of the hole. He heard the creaking of the Wreck Room door.

His fingers drummed against the side of the hole. He heard his own heart beat.

He took a drink from the canteen. He had given Zero the water jars. They each had a good supply of onions.

He wasn’t sure how long he remained in the hole, maybe five hours. He was surprised when he heard Zero whispering for him to wake up. He didn’t think he’d fallen asleep. If he had, he thought it must have just been for the last five minutes. Although, when he opened his eyes, he was surprised how dark it was.

There was only one light on at camp, in the office. The sky was cloudy, so there was very little starlight. Stanley could see a sliver of moon, which appeared and disappeared among the clouds. He carefully led Zero to the hole, which as hard to find in the darkness. He stumbled over a small pile of dirt. “I think this is it,” he whispered.

“You think?” Zero asked.

“It’s it,” said Stanely, sounding more certain than he really was. He climbed down. Zero handed him the shovel.

Stanley struck the shovel into the dirt at the bottom of the hole and stepped on the back of the blade. He felt it sing beneath his weight. He scooped out some dirt and tossed it off to the side. Then he brought the shovel back down.

Zero watched for a while. “I’m going to try to refill the water jars,” he said (pg 198-199).
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