

Idea Unit Scoring Tips

Use the total number of words read, including any errors, to determine the number of idea units a student should recall.

- This is the “word number” recorded on the Record Sheet corresponding to the last word the student read. Any idea units beyond the “word number” are ineligible for the purposes of scoring the student retell.
- Remember that equated scores are based on the WCPM: the score you calculated using the “word number,” the “number of errors,” and the “time in seconds.” Although the WCPM is essential to obtaining the equated score (box C on the Record Sheet), neither the WCPM nor the equated score are used in evaluating retells.

An idea unit must have a subject (who or what) and a predicate (verb with something about the who or what).

- Students do not receive credit for one-word answers.
- The who or what is usually a part of each idea unit, but the subject can be implied when the student is coherently combining ideas.

Synonyms and reasonable approximations are acceptable.

- Although some suggestions for alternative wording are provided, they are not considered exhaustive of the ways in which students might refer to the subject (who or what) or describe the predicate. It is intended that the student responses are as nearly identical to the options provided as is reasonable.
- Minor inaccuracies that do not alter the basic idea can be awarded credit. For example, a student may not correctly pronounce a proper noun. If it does not significantly alter the meaning of the idea unit, credit can be awarded. Please note that when a particular factual detail, such as a year, has been included in an idea unit, it is expected the student will include this information in the retell or not receive credit. When the exact detail is not required, optional wording is provided for that idea unit on the Scoring Guide.

Retell Scoring Guide

Laura
(page 1 of 3)

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

| # of Words Read | ☒ Recalled Idea Unit | | ✓ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 7 | A girl A lady Laura | was a writer author or wrote children's books | 1 |
| 24 | She Laura | was born in a log house in Wisconsin in 1867 | 2 |
| 37 | She Laura | was close to her older sister had an older sister named Mary or was the second daughter of Charles Caroline | 3 |
| 65 | They Her family | had to move so her wherever their dad father could find get work a job because her dad didn't have | 4 |
| 72 | They Her family | moved after Laura was born to Missouri | 5 |
| 82 | They Her family | moved to start a farm to Kansas where her sister Carrie was born | 6 |
| 105 | They Her family | moved back to Wisconsin to be near family | 7 |
| 122 | They Her family | moved in 1874 to Walnut Grove to Minnesota or Her dad/father Charles wanted longed to farm | 8 |
| 151 | The girls The kids Laura and her sisters | had many adventures | 9 |
| 176 | Grasshoppers Bugs | ate destroyed their crops their wheat crop | 10 |

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

Laura (2 of 3)

| # of Words Read | ⊗ Recalled Idea Unit | ▼ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 197 | Their baby boy died | 11 |
| 215 | Mary had a stroke went blind lost her eyesight | 12 |
| 233 | They The family moved to De Smet to the Dakota Territories so the dad (Charles) could work with the railroad | 13 |
| 255 | The dad Charles farmed again They The family acquired got some land <i>or</i> | 14 |
| 283 | They The family saved money to send Mary to a school for the blind | 15 |
| 295 | Laura started teaching when she was 15 | 16 |
| 319 | She Laura got married married a farmer (Alonzo Wilder) | 17 |
| 327 | They Laura and Almonzo had a baby had a baby named Rose | 18 |
| 342 | Storms ruined their crops <i>or</i> They went into debt | 19 |
| 357 | Her husband Almonzo got sick became crippled | 20 |
| 372 | Their second baby Her (Laura's) second baby died | 21 |
| 382 | Their house burned down | 22 |

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

Laura (3 of 3)

| # of Words Read | ☒ Recalled Idea Unit | ▼ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 395 | They Laura and Almonzo moved around a lot to Florida to De Smet | 23 |
| 424 | They Laura and Almonzo bought a farm settled down spent the rest of their lives in Missouri | 24 |
| 436 | Laura could tell stories was a storyteller ----- <i>or</i> ----- Her (Laura's) daughter Rose wanted convinced Laura to write her stories | 25 |
| 463 | She Laura wrote seven books the Little House series books read by many people ----- <i>or</i> ----- books people loved liked admired | 26 |
| 493 | She Laura died in 1957 at the age of 90 ----- <i>or</i> ----- Their farm is open available to visit | 27 |

Retell Scoring Guide

A Wonderful Friendship

(page 1 of 2)

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

| # of Words Read | ☒ Recalled Idea Unit | | | | ☑ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 11 | A girl Helen Keller | couldn't | see hear | | 1 |
| 18 | A man Alexander Graham Bell | | was a scientist was an inventor invented the telephone | | 2 |
| 26 | They Keller and Bell | were famous knew each other | | opened new worlds of conversation communication | 3 |
| 58 | The girl Helen Keller | lost her did not could not | sight hearing speak talk | when she was a baby or | 4 |
| 81 | She The girl Helen Keller | was intelligent wanted to learn was eager to learn | | | 5 |
| 100 | Her (Keller's) parents | wanted | to help her learn to educate her | | 6 |
| 116 | They Her (Keller's) parents | took her (Keller) went | to see | the scientist the inventor Alexander Graham Bell | 7 |
| 131 | He The man Bell | thought teaching was considered teaching to be was a teacher of used to teach | his most important work deaf people | or | 8 |
| 153 | They Her (Keller's) parents | hired | a private teacher Anne Sullivan | | 9 |
| 172 | The teacher Sullivan | taught her (Keller) words | | | 10 |
| 190 | The girl Keller | learned to read and write wrote her first letter to Bell | | | 11 |

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

A Wonderful Friendship (2 of 2)

| # of Words Read | ⊗ Recalled Idea Unit | ▼ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 205 | He Bell encouraged her (Keller) to learn | 12 |
| 236 | He Bell told her (Keller) stories with using his hands his fingers | 13 |
| 256 | He Bell told her (Keller) about inventing the telephone | 14 |
| 277 | The telephone let people all over the world in different places talk to each other | 15 |
| 305 | He Bell opened a school for deaf students people children | 16 |
| 321 | He Bell started an information center to tell people about the deaf | 17 |
| 362 | She Keller decided set a goal to learn how to speak to take lessons in speaking | 18 |
| 395 | She Keller gave a speech about Bell's work at his information center | 19 |
| 424 | He Bell helped hearing and deaf people talk to each other | 20 |
| 444 | She Keller finished graduated college became a writer or | 21 |
| 466 | She Keller dedicated her autobiography a book about her life to Bell Keller's Her book about her life autobiography was a symbol of her friendship with Bell | 22 |

Retell Scoring Guide

Spreading Wildflowers

(page 1 of 3)

Each row of the table represents an idea unit and is worth 1 point.

| # of Words Read | ☒ Recalled Idea Unit | | | | ☑ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 6 | A girl A lady A person Claudia Taylor Lady Bird | was born in | Texas the country Karnack 1912 | or was given the nickname "Lady Bird" | 1 |
| 36 | She Claudia Lady Bird | liked loved | nature being outdoors looking for flowers | | 2 |
| 69 | Texas The state | started a wildflower program | | | 3 |
| 84 | The highway department The state Texas They * | waited for the flowers to go to seed before they mowed | | or The seeds would spread grow into plants | 4 |
| 116 | The girl The lady Claudia Lady Bird | moved to Austin or went to | college the university UT | | 5 |
| 133 | She Claudia Lady Bird | married | a man Lyndon B. Johnson LBJ | | 6 |
| 141 | Her husband Johnson | ran for became | president | | 7 |
| 162 | Lady Bird His wife | saw | beauty and blight neglect ugliness | when traveling | 8 |

* The pronoun "they" is acceptable only if the student is clearly referring to the highway department or the state of Texas.

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

Spreading Wildflowers (2 of 3)

| # of Words Read | ☒ Recalled Idea Unit | | | ▼ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 189 | She Claudia Lady Bird | set up a committee | | 9 |
| 206 | She Claudia Lady Bird | wanted to make the capital look more beautiful | | 10 |
| 220 | She Claudia Lady Bird | Volunteers met once a month ----- or was in charge of was the head of | volunteers | 11 |
| 262 | They The committee The volunteers | got attention by planting flowers around the city | | 12 |
| 277 | They The committee The volunteers | got encouraged | businesses and neighborhoods to plant clean up | 13 |
| 329 | Other states | set up their own programs ----- or started using copying the committee's ideas ----- or planted preserved flowers wildflowers | | 14 |
| 358 | The state Texas | continued the wildflower program | | 15 |
| 391 | She Claudia Lady Bird | she Claudia Lady Bird | wanted to encourage planting wildflowers ----- or started planting flowers along the river in Austin | 16 |
| 450 | The project | added built | bike paths trails hiking paths | 17 |

Table continues on the next page.

Retell Scoring Guide (cont.)

Spreading Wildflowers (3 of 3)

| # of Words Read | ⊗ Recalled Idea Unit | | | | ✓ Maximum Possible Idea Units |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 464 | The project inspired | building creating | a center for studying native plants | | 18 |
| | She Claudia Lady Bird | started a center for | sharing information about studying learning about | flowers plants wildflowers | |
| 533 | The center was named after Lady Bird | | | | 19 |
| | The center's name was changed to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center | | | | |