Directions

1. Randomly select three (3) sample passages and count out exactly 100 words each, starting with the beginning of a sentence. Count proper nouns, initializations, and numerals.

   A word is defined as a group of symbols with a space on either side; thus, Joe, IRA, 1945, and & are each one word.

2. Count the number of sentences in the hundred words, estimating length of the fraction of the last sentence to the nearest one-tenth.

3. Count the total number of syllables in the 100-word passage. If you don’t have a hand counter available, an easy way is to simply put a mark above every syllable, then count the number of marks.

   A syllable is defined as a phonetic syllable. Generally, there are as many syllables as vowel sounds. For example, stopped is one syllable and wanted is two syllables. When counting syllables for numerals and initializations, count one syllable for numerals and initializations, count one syllable for each symbol. For example, 1945 is four syllables, IRA is three syllables, and & is one syllable.

4. If a great deal of variability is found in syllable count basing the average on more samples is desirable.

5. Enter graph with average sentence length and average number of syllables; plot dot where the two lines intersect. Area where dot is plotted will give you the approximate grade level.