

The Raygor Readability Estimate
For Cry, the Beloved Country
By Alan Patton

Passage 1 (page 33)

The grass is rich and matted, you cannot see the soil. It holds the rain and the mist, and they seep into the ground, feeding the streams in every kloof. It is well-tended, and not too many cattle feed upon it; not too many firs burn it, laying bare the soil. Stand unshod upon it, for the ground is holy, being even as it came from the Creator. Keep it, guard it, care for it, for it keeps men, guards men, cares for men. Destroy it and man is destroyed. Where you stand the grass is rich and matted, you / cannot see the soil.

Passage 2 (page 162)

Indeed they talked about it often, for when they visited one another and sat on the long cool verandahs drinking their tea, they must needs look out over the barren valleys and the bare hills that were stretched below them. Some of their labor was drawn from Ndotsheni, and they knew how year by year there was less food grown in these reserves. There were too many cattle there, and the fields were eroded and barren; each new field extended the devastation. Something might have been done, if these people had only learned how to fight erosion, if they had / built walls to save the soil from washing, if they had ploughed along the contours of the hills.

Passage 3 (page 300)

But the greatest wonder of all is the great machine, that was fighting in the war, they said, and pushes the earth of Kuluse's brother's land over to the line of the sticks, and leaves it there, growing ever higher and higher. And even Kuluse's brother, watching it sullenly, breaks out into unwilling laughter, but remembers again and is sullen. But there is some satisfaction for him, for next year, when the dam is full, Zuma and his brother must both give up their land that lies below the dam, for white man's grass is to be planted there, to / be watered from the dam, to be cut and thrown into the kraal where the cattle will be kept.

	<u>Sentences</u>	<u>Words</u>
Passage One	6.7	15
Passage Two	3.5	21
Passage Three	<u>2.7</u>	<u>24</u>
Total	12.9	60
Average	4.3	20

This puts the novel right on the line between seventh and eighth grade level readability.