

Stage BL**beginning****example 1****The student****Year Level:** (11 years old)**Background:** Refugee from Iraq; family came via several years in Iran**Language:** Arabic; Farsi**Schooling:** largely unschooled before Australia; is learning Arabic literacy in Saturday school**The task**

The student was asked a series of questions about himself and his life in Australia by an interviewer [Int]. He had the assistance of an interpreter [Ips]

The text shows that the student:

on hearing English, attempts to respond in English

understands simple, predictable questions

asks for clarification from other L1 speakers

interacts appropriately in context

demonstrates listening

After the student provides his name and age, the conversation continues:

Int: Well, XXX, do you like living in Australia?

S: [softly] **yes**

Int: Yes? What do you like? ... Do you like the people?

S: **yes, some people**

Int: The weather? The food?

S: [asks for translation and responds in Arabic]

Ips: he likes the people, the food [unclear - all things about Australia?]

Int: And what about [this town]? Do you like [this town]?

S: **Yeah**

Int: Yeah? Ok. What do you like about [this town]?

S: [asks for translation and responds in Arabic]

Ips: I like everything here in [this town] [unclear]

Int: And when you finish school, what would you like to do?

S: [asks for translation and responds in Arabic]

Ips: [like to be a doctor]

Int: You'll have to work very hard

Int: And XXX, do you have any Australian friends?

S: **Yes**

Int: Yes? What are their names?

S: **Mohammed, Amar, all Mohammed.**

This text is an example of a student beginning to work towards Stage BL. He has very little oral English. He does not respond meaningfully to English beyond some very basic responses. He spontaneously repeats some words. He will join in activities, watching and copying what other children do in the classroom but may not speak. He may spontaneously repeat words or phrases without understanding their meaning. He may not speak in the classroom except to same language peers. He communicates mostly in his first language. He can understand more in English than he can say.