



13+ Scholarship Examinations 2019

ENGLISH

1 hour 15 minutes

50 marks

Answer Section A and one of the two options in Section B

You should spend 10 minutes reading and annotating the passage, and spend five minutes at the end reading over your work

You should spend about 30 minutes answering each question

Write your name clearly on every sheet of paper used

I was set down from the carrier's cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began.

The June grass, amongst which I stood, was taller than I was, and I wept. I had never been so close to grass before. It towered above me and all around me, each blade tattooed with tiger-skins of sunlight. It was knife-edged, dark, and a wicked green, thick as a forest and alive with grasshoppers that chirped and chattered and leapt through the air like monkeys.

I was lost and didn't know where to move. A tropic heat oozed up from the ground, rank with sharp odours of roots and nettles. Snow-clouds of elder-blossom banked in the sky, showering upon me the fumes and flakes of their sweet and giddy suffocation. High overhead ran frenzied larks, screaming, as though the sky were tearing apart. For the first time in my life I was out of the sight of humans.

For the first time in my life I was alone in a world whose behaviour I could neither predict nor fathom: a world of birds that squealed, of plants that stank, of insects that sprang about without warning. I was lost and I did not expect to be found again. I put back my head and howled, and the sun hit me smartly on the face, like a bully.

From this daylight nightmare I was awakened, as from many another, by the appearance of my sisters. They came scrambling and calling up the steep rough bank, and parting the long grass found me. Faces of rose, familiar, living; huge shining faces hung up like shields between me and the sky; faces with grins and white teeth (some broken) to be conjured up like genii with a howl, brushing off terror with their broad scoldings and affection. They leaned over me – one, two, three – their mouths smeared with red currants and their hands dripping with juice.

'There, there, it's all right, don't you wail any more. Come down 'ome and we'll stuff you with currants.'

And Marjorie, the eldest, lifted me into her long brown hair, and ran me jogging down the path and through the steep rose-filled garden, and set me down on the cottage doorstep, which was our home, though I couldn't believe it.

From Laurie Lee, *Cider with Rosie* (1962)

SECTION A

With close attention to language, form and style, discuss the ways in which the writer creates such a vivid sense of place in this passage.

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Write a story using **one** of the following sentences as its opening:

- a. As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.
- b. Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him.

In your story, you need to demonstrate a clear sense of the following:

- character
- setting
- plot

(25 marks)

END

13+ Scholarship Examinations

ENGLISH
May 2021

1 hour 15 minutes

Answer Section A and one of the two options in Section B

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You should spend about 30 minutes answering each question

Write your name and school clearly on every sheet of paper used

Total number of marks: 50

It was wretched weather; stormy and wet, stormy and wet; and mud, mud, mud deep in all the streets. Day after day, a vast heavy veil had been driving over London from the East, and it drove still, as if in the East there were an Eternity of cloud and wind. So furious had been the gusts, that high buildings in town had had the lead stripped off their roofs; and gloomy accounts had come in from the coast, of shipwreck and death. Violent blasts of rain had accompanied these rages of wind as I sat down to read.

Alterations have been made in that part of the Temple since that time, and it has not now so lonely a character as it had then, nor is it so exposed to the river. We lived at the top of the last house, and the wind rushing up the river shook the house that night, like discharges of cannon, or breakings of a sea. When the rain came with it and dashed against the windows, I thought, raising my eyes to them as they rocked, that I might have fancied myself in a storm-beaten lighthouse. Occasionally, the smoke came rolling down the chimney as though it could not bear to go out into such a night; and when I set the doors open and looked down the staircase, the staircase lamps were blown out; and when I shaded my face with my hands and looked through the black windows (opening them ever so little was out of the question in the teeth of such wind and rain), I saw that the lamps in the court were blown out, and that the lamps on the bridges and the shore were shuddering, and that the coal-fires in barges on the river were being carried away before the wind like red-hot splashes in the rain.

I read with my watch upon the table, purposing to close my book at eleven o'clock. As I shut it, Saint Paul's, and all the many church-clocks in the City – some leading, some accompanying, some following – struck that hour. The sound was curiously flawed by the wind; and I was listening, and thinking how the wind assailed and tore it, when I heard a footstep on the stair.

What nervous folly made me start, and awfully connect it with the footstep of my dead sister, matters not. It was past in a moment, and I listened again, and heard the footstep stumble in coming in. Remembering then, that the staircase-lights were blown out, I took up my reading lamp and went out to the stair-head. Whoever was below had stopped on seeing my lamp, for all was quiet.

“There is someone down there, is there not?” I called out, looking down.

“Yes,” said a voice from the darkness beneath.

From Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1860)

SECTION A

With close attention to language, form and style, discuss the ways in which the writer creates an unsettling atmosphere in this passage.

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Write a story using **ONE** of the following sentences as its opening:

- a. 'Get up!'
Felled, dazed, silent, he has fallen; knocked full length on the cobbles of the yard.
- b. The snow in the mountains was melting and Robert had been dead for several weeks before we came to understand the gravity of our situation.

In your story, you need to demonstrate a clear sense of the following:

- character
- setting
- plot

(25 marks)

END



13+ Scholarship Examinations 2022

ENGLISH

1 hour 15 minutes

50 marks

Answer Section A and one of the two options in Section B

You should spend 10 minutes reading and annotating the passage, and spend five minutes at the end reading over your work

You should spend about 30 minutes answering each question

Write your name clearly on every sheet of paper used

Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr. Heathcliff's dwelling. "Wuthering" being a significant provincial adjective, descriptive of the atmospheric tumult to which its station is exposed in stormy weather. Pure, bracing ventilation they must have up there at all times, indeed: one may guess the power of the north wind, blowing over the edge, by the excessive slant of a few stunted firs at the end of the house; and by a range of gaunt thorns all stretching their limbs one way, as if craving alms of the sun. Happily, the architect had foresight to build it strong: the narrow windows are deeply set in the wall, and the corners defended with large jutting stones. Before passing the threshold, I paused to admire a quantity of grotesque carving lavished over the front, and especially about the principal door; above which, among a wilderness of crumbling griffins and shameless little boys, I detected the date "1500," and the name "Hareton Earnshaw." I would have made a few comments, and requested a short history of the place from the surly owner; but his attitude at the door appeared to demand my speedy entrance, or complete departure, and I had no desire to aggravate his impatience previous to inspecting the penetralium.

One step brought us into the family sitting-room, without any introductory lobby or passage: they call it here "the house" pre-eminently. It includes kitchen and parlour, generally; but I believe at Wuthering Heights the kitchen is forced to retreat altogether into another quarter: at least I distinguished a chatter of tongues, and a clatter of culinary utensils, deep within; and I observed no signs of roasting, boiling, or baking, about the huge fireplace; nor any glitter of copper saucepans and tin cullenders on the walls. One end, indeed, reflected splendidly both light and heat from ranks of immense pewter dishes, interspersed with silver jugs and tankards, towering row after row, on a vast oak dresser, to the very roof. The latter had never been under-drawn: its entire anatomy lay bare to an inquiring eye, except where a frame of wood laden with oatcakes and clusters of legs of beef, mutton, and ham, concealed it. Above the chimney were sundry villainous old guns, and a couple of horse-pistols: and, by way of ornament, three gaudily painted canisters disposed along its ledge. The floor was of smooth, white stone; the chairs, high-backed, primitive structures, painted green: one or two heavy black ones lurking in the shade. In an arch under the dresser reposed a huge, liver-coloured bitch pointer, surrounded by a swarm of squealing puppies; and other dogs haunted other recesses.

From Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (1860)

SECTION A

With close attention to language, form and style, discuss the ways in which the writer creates a **memorable setting** in this passage.

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Write a story using the following sentence as its opening:

‘Behind this story there is another one.’

In your story, you need to demonstrate a clear sense of the following:

- character
- setting
- plot

Or

‘Describe a room which belongs to an older person’.

(25 marks)

END