

Read the passage carefully, then answer all the questions in Section A

- 1 Like a bad-tempered queue-jumper, the train rolled up against its buffers and gave a vicious jolt. Then it gave another, in the opposite direction – a jerk which travelled from one coach to the next, tipping passengers back into their seats or forward out of them. Skillets and coffee pots clattered to the floor. Above Cissy’s head, a pair of spurs scraped on the carriage roof, and a saddle slithered
5 past the window, flailing its stirrups. But still the train did not move off.

From end to end came the noise of men and children imitating the guard’s whistle, but another ten minutes crawled by without the train making a move, and every second the carriage became hotter and hotter.

- 10 “I paid for first class tickets!” protested a latecomer, hopping up and down outside the carriage door in a red-faced rage.

“All first class on thissun,” said the guard and he offered the latecomer a leg-up on to the roof. “Make room. ‘nother one a-coming!” he announced cheerily, and there was a crump and an outburst of curses from over Cissy’s head. She had never in her life heard so many curses as she had heard today.

- 15 She glanced sideways at the couple alongside her: a pasty pair, both shaped like cottage loaves whose dough was still rising as they cooked in the sweltering heat. She half expected their crusts to turn brown. When they had got in and plumped themselves down beside her, they had smelt of cinnamon and biscuits, but now they smelt more like old cheese.

- 20 Though she had been straining her ears for the sound all morning, Cissy never did hear the cannon, pistol-shot, or whatever signal it was that set things moving. That was drowned out by the noise of the whistlers and the groaning old people and the crying babies and the quarrelling children and the cries of, “.....bought a first class ticket.....!” The train simply gave another shuddering jerk, blew its own whistle, and set off.

- 25 A roar swept down the train - a roar of excitement and relief mixed with protests as those on the roof were enveloped in steam and smuts from the funnel. The faces and fluttering handkerchiefs of well-wishers fell away, and beyond the window views opened up of flat, unbroken prairies infested with moving figures.

- 30 The train, which called itself the Red Rock Runner, did not pick up speed, however. It settled instead into an ambling pace, so that the riders and wagons who had set off at the self-same moment could keep pace with it. No one must be given an unfair advantage in this greatest of all races; the rules had stipulated twelve miles an hour for the train. A cowboy outside the train car window winked at Cissy’s mother who turned away, pretending not to see. But because the train was going no faster than the horse, the cowboy was still there an hour later, still leering in and winking.

- 35 The dawdling speed was not even enough to set up a draught through the cramped train. The passengers were simply jostled and rolled together by it, like cobs of corn stewing in a pot. “How long before we get there?” asked Cissy, not remembering that she had asked seven times already. She got no answer.

Section A: Reading - 20 marks

Please answer these questions. Look at the passage again if you need to. You *do not* need to write full sentences for the 1-mark questions.

1. Looking at paragraph 1, what is the impact of the train's jolts on the passengers?

[1 mark]

2. Why is the latecomer upset?

[1 mark]

3. What can Cissy see outside the train window as it begins to move off (lines 25-27)?

[1 mark]

4. *"...a pasty pair, both shaped like cottage loaves..."* (line 15). What technique is used here to describe the couple?

[1 mark]

5. How does the cowboy outside the window react to the train's speed (lines 31-33)?

[1 mark]

6. *"the rules had stipulated twelve miles an hour for the train."* (line 31). What does *"stipulated"* mean?

[1 mark]

7. Name two sounds that prevent Cissy from hearing the signal that sets the train in motion.

[2 marks]

8. Write down one thing that we learn about each of the following characters or objects.

- a. The latecomer
- b. The couple
- c. The Red Rock Runner

Include **one short quotation** for each to support your point of view.

[6 marks]

The latecomer:

The couple:

The Red Rock Runner:

9. Looking at the whole extract, how does the writer use language to present the journey? Include **short quotations** to support your point of view.

[6 marks]

Section B: Expressive Writing - 20 marks

Please note the instructions

- *Make your writing as descriptive and vivid as possible*
- *Description is as important as narrative*
- *You should aim to write approximately 1 to 1½ sides*
- *Plan your writing before you start: the plan will NOT be marked*
- *The accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will form part of the assessment in this section.*

Choose ONE of the following tasks:

EITHER

1. Continue writing the story from the narrator's point of view.

Good answers will show:

- An understanding of what Cissy is likely to be feeling.
- An understanding of what might reasonably happen next.
- We have started the paragraph for you. You may use it if you wish to.

Cissy sighed and shifted in her seat, feeling the oppressive heat of the cramped carriage. As the train continued its ambling pace across the prairies, she observed the fellow passengers around her, each absorbed in their own discomfort and frustration.

OR

2. Write a story that involves a train journey.

Good answers will show:

- Detailed descriptions
- An awareness of how a traveller might experience the journey

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