

11+ ENTRANCE EXAM

January 2021

ENGLISH

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

First Name:

Surname:

READING (mark out of 50)

WRITING (mark out of 50)

TOTAL %

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE ANSWER BOTH PARTS OF THE EXAMINATION

Part A: Reading (approx. 35 minutes)

- Spend 5 minutes reading the story and the questions in the booklet.
- You can mark the story by highlighting or underlining.
- The paragraphs have been numbered as some of the questions refer to specific paragraphs.

Part B: Writing (approx. 40 minutes)

There are two writing sections: you should spend around 20 minutes on Section 1 and the remaining 20 minutes on Section 2.

- Please start each section on a separate sheet of paper.
- Make sure you put your name at the top of each sheet of paper.

YOU MAY WRITE IN EITHER INK OR PENCIL

In this extract the writer describes a young girl's move to Brazil.

1. Aashni was awoken by the tinny humming of a mosquito in her ear. Pulling herself up like a collapsed puppet, her arm numb from where she had lain on it, and her eyes puffy from sleep, her first realisation was that night had fallen. Yet although the house was silent, the rainforest outside certainly was not. She could identify the cacophonous call of birds – they shrieked and squawked in clear reciprocation, chattering and interrupting one another. Their conversations were punctuated by the howls and yelps of monkeys, and the undergrowth at the edge of the veranda rustled and shook continuously with the movements of the creatures within. Yet rather than magnify her loneliness or fear, the noise and bustle left her intrigued by the life beyond the window.
2. Inside, Aashni's stuffed bear, Toffee, surveyed the room balefully. He sat upon a threadbare chair that, like every other item in the room, seemed like a relic from a bygone time. Neglected ornaments languished in shadowy obscurity, many made from ivory and dark mahogany. Some were small and attractive, like a white mouse mid-scramper, but others were almost ominous – including a small, heavy box covered with menacing faces and figures holding weapons. Aashni was reminded that it was Toffee who stood guard for her whilst she slept. Now, as she lit one of the candles left on her dressing table, Toffee's eyes glimmered and winked in the light. She scooped him up and began whispering to him conspiratorially. She was mindful that she did not want to wake her aunt in the next room; she knew that she had appeared ungrateful and morose at dinner, but really, how was she supposed to feel? Her father had decided that she would be better cared for by her aunt than her grandmother. And he had seemed frankly stunned by her grandmother's suggestion that Aashni may, after all, prefer to be cared for by him.
3. 'I'm not sure how I feel about this,' Aashni whispered softly into Toffee's rounded ear. She held him firmly in one arm whilst now examining the items on her dressing table. One particular box caught her attention. It was the dark one, carved with the most intricate pictures; she tipped it and it rattled, but she could not see how to open it. Whatever was within sounded metallic. It rolled and clicked from side to side as she shook it absentmindedly.

'I don't know what I'm doing here,' Aashni said in a serious tone. 'What do you think, Toffee?'

The bear was as tight-lipped as ever. Aashni knew that he thought deeply about her problems and was careful in his responses. Now, his comforting expression and winking eyes indicated to her that he thought things would be alright, and that she would always have him for company.

4. Sitting herself upon the patched and worn chair, addled but resolute, Aashni ruminated over the previous days. It had taken a long time to arrive in Brazil by ship. And her aunt had seemed flustered by her arrival, although her kindly face had been a welcome change from the rather lonely journey. Something in that

warm embrace, however, seemed almost desperate, like the branches of a neem tree, warding off demons from the past. Even more strangely, when unpacking her luggage, Aunt Ria seemed deeply concerned about the contents, as though she were expecting to find some overlooked treasure. In a distracted tone she had asked about her father sending an envelope. Aashni did think that it would have been a considerate thing for her father to send his sister a letter, although she was surprised by the depth of Aunt Ria's disappointment that none materialised, despite her Aunt's careful, fretful inspection of Aashni's belongings.

5. As Aashni pondered her increasingly mysterious situation, the candle suddenly fell to the floor. It was immediately extinguished and the room plunged into darkness. Leaping from the chair, Aashni patted her hand along the dressing table for the matches. She rescued the candle, singeing herself slightly on the hot wax, and moved to light it again. In the sudden flare of the match and glow of the wick, she noticed a dark shape leap from the edge of the veranda into the abyss below. She froze. It had looked almost like a person sitting on the fence of the balcony, but the movement it made was that of a cat slinking towards an unsuspecting bird – purposeful and sinuous.

How long had it been sitting there? Why had it been watching her?

Part A - Reading (35 minutes)

1. What sounds does Aashni hear outside her window?

1 mark

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2. Look at the second paragraph and describe the room that Aashni wakes up in. Pick out short quotations from the text to support your ideas.

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3 marks

3. In the second half of paragraph 2 the narrator tells us about Aashni's feelings about who is looking after her.

How does Aashni feel about staying with her Aunt?

1 mark

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Who do you think Aashni wants to take care of her and why?

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2 marks

4. What is Aashni's father's attitude towards who looks after her?

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What do we learn about his character from this?

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1 mark

2 marks

5. In your own words, describe Aunt Ria's response to Aashni's arrival.

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3 marks

6. Look again at how setting is described in the first paragraph. What kind of mood and atmosphere does the writer create?

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2 marks

Select two quotations from the first paragraph and explain how the language creates that atmosphere.

Quotation one:

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1 mark

Effect:

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2 marks

Quotation two:

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1 mark

Effect:

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2 marks

7. Look at the following phrases in the passage. Explore the effect(s) of the writer's choice of words.

"addled but resolute, Aashni ruminated over the previous days"

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3 marks

“a cat slinking toward an unsuspecting bird – purposeful and sinuous”

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3 marks

8. Look at the final paragraph. How does the mood change with the introduction of the disturbance outside the window?

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2 marks

How does the writer control the structure and punctuation to reflect this change in mood with the introduction of the disturbance outside the window?

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6 marks

9. In the passage as whole, what do we learn about Aashni’s character? Use quotations from the text to support your answer and comment on any interesting language choices.

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10 marks

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10. Give equivalent phrases for the ways in which the following words are used in the passage. They are underlined to help you locate them. (1 mark each)

Cacophonous

1 mark

Relic

1 mark

Languished

1 mark

Fretful

1 mark

Abyss

1 mark

Writing – Section 1, 20 minutes (25 marks)

1. Continue the story. It should start with Aashni exploring the world outside her window the next day.

Writing – Section 2, 20 minutes (25 marks)

2. Discuss the following:

The places that are most important to us are often where we have experienced our happiest memories. Discuss this view, using examples from your own life.