



11+ Comprehension

Inference

Test Paper 1

Instructions:

1. The total time allowed is 40 minutes.
 - a) 10 minutes for reading
 - b) 30 minutes for answering the questions
2. There is a total of 35 marks available.
3. The available marks for each question are mentioned next to the question.
4. Write your answers in the space provided below each question.
5. For multiple-choice questions, write the correct option(s) from A to E in the box provided with the question.

Symbols used:



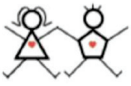
Go to the next page.



Do not turn the page until told to do so.



Stop working and await instructions.



A man stands at a fork in the road and decides which path to take.

- 1 Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
- 2 And sorry I could not travel both
- 3 And be one traveller, long I stood
- 4 And looked down one as far as I could
- 5 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- 6 Then took the other, as just as fair,
- 7 And having perhaps the better claim,
- 8 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
- 9 Though as for that the passing there
- 10 Had worn them really about the same,

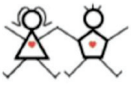
- 11 And both that morning equally lay
- 12 In leaves no step had trodden black.
- 13 Oh, I kept the first for another day!
- 14 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
- 15 I doubted if I should ever come back.

- 16 I shall be telling this with a sigh
- 17 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
- 18 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
- 19 I took the one less travelled by,
- 20 And that has made all the difference.



from *The Road Not Taken*,
by Robert Frost





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What season in the poem set in?

[2]

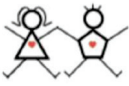
2. How do you know that one path is less travelled than the other?

[3]

3. What does the poet mean by 'yet knowing how way leads on to way'?

[4]





4. **'And both that morning equally laya
In leaves no step had trodden black.'**

How do these lines tell us that the narrator is the first person to walk through the woods that day?

- A. Because it tells us that it is the morning
- B. Because it tells us that the leaves have not been walked on yet
- C. Because the colour black symbolises death
- D. Because there are leaves on the ground
- E. Because morning symbolises new beginnings

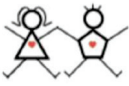
[1]

5. **Why do you think that taking the road 'less travelled by [...] has made all the difference'?**

- A. Because the narrator got lost
- B. Because the narrator would be bored on the most travelled path
- C. Because the narrator wanted to be alone
- D. Because the narrator has experienced that which others have not
- E. Because the narrator did not want to get muddy

[1]





Snufkin wakes up inside his tent and decides to break camp. He walks back through the forest.

1 The forest was heavy with rain and the trees were absolutely motionless. Everything had
2 withered and died, but right down on the ground the late autumn's secret garden was
3 growing with great vigour straight out of the mouldering earth, a strange vegetation of
4 shiny puffed-up plants that had nothing at all to do with summer. The late
5 blueberry sprigs were yellowish-green and the cranberries as dark as blood. Hidden lichens
6 and mosses began to grow, and they grew like a big soft carpet until they took over the
7 whole forest. There were strong new colours everywhere, and red rowan berries were
8 shining all over the place. But the bracken had turned black.

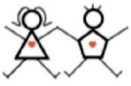
9 Snufkin got a feeling that he wanted to write songs. He waited until he was quite sure of
10 the feeling and one evening he got out his mouth-organ from the bottom of his rucksack.
11 In August, somewhere in Moominvalley, he had hit upon five bars which would
12 undoubtedly provide a marvellous beginning for a tune. They had come completely
13 naturally as notes do when they have been left in peace. Now the time had come to take
14 them out again and let them become a song about rain.

15 Snufkin listened and waited. The five bars didn't come. He went on waiting without
16 getting impatient because he knew what tunes were like. But the only things he could
17 hear were the faint sounds of rain and running water. It gradually got quite dark. Snufkin
18 took out his pipe but put it away again. He knew that the five bars must be somewhere in
19 Moominvalley and that he wouldn't find them until he went back again.



from *Moomin Valley in November*
by Tove Jansson





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

6. 'The forest was heavy with rain' (line 1)

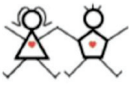
What effect does this metaphor have on the reader?

[3]

7. How does the author differentiate summer from autumn?

[4]





8. What is the significance of Snufkin's mouth organ?

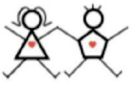
[3]

9. How does the author present autumn?

- A. The author presents autumn in a negative way; the author clearly does not like autumn.
- B. The author prefers summer to autumn.
- C. Autumn is presented as lifelike and vibrant.
- D. The passage does not concern autumn.
- E. The author presents autumn in a positive way; they clearly prefer autumn to summer.

[1]





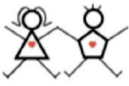
10. 'The trees were absolutely motionless'

What does this line tell us about the weather?

- A. The sun is shining
- B. The rain is heavy
- C. It is stormy
- D. There is no wind
- E. There is no rain

[1]





Set in the dustbowl era in 1930s America, the narrator sets the scene of a bleak, lifeless world.

1 To the red country and part of the gray country of Oklahoma, the last rains came gently, and
2 they did not cut the scarred earth. The plows crossed and recrossed the rivulet marks. The
3 last rains lifted the corn quickly and scattered weed colonies and grass along the sides of the
4 roads so that the gray country and the dark red country began to disappear under a green
5 cover. In the last part of May the sky grew pale and the clouds that had hung in high puffs for
6 so long in the spring were dissipated. The sun flared down on the growing corn day after day
7 until a line of brown spread along the edge of each green bayonet.

8 The clouds appeared, and went away, and in a while they did not try any more. The weeds
9 grew darker green to protect themselves, and they did not spread any more. The surface of
10 the earth crusted, a thin hard crust, and as the sky became pale, so the earth became pale,
11 pink in the red country and white in the gray country.

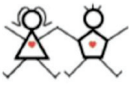
12 In the water-cut gullies the earth dusted down in dry little streams. Gophers and ant lions
13 started small avalanches. And as the sharp sun struck day after day, the leaves of the young
14 corn became less stiff and erect; they bent in a curve at first, and then, as the central ribs of
15 strength grew weak, each leaf tilted downward. Then it was June, and the sun shone more
16 fiercely. The brown lines on the corn leaves widened and moved in on the central ribs. The
17 weeds frayed and edged back toward their roots. The air was thin and the sky more pale; and
18 every day the earth paled.

19 In the roads where the teams moved, where the wheels milled the ground and the hooves
20 of the horses beat the ground, the dirt crust broke and the dust formed. Every moving thing
21 lifted the dust into the air: a walking man lifted a thin layer as high as his waist, and a wagon
22 lifted the dust as high as the fence tops, and an automobile boiled a cloud behind it. The dust
23 was long in settling back again.

24 When June was half gone, the big clouds moved up out of Texas and the Gulf, high heavy
25 clouds, rainheads. The men in the fields looked up at the clouds and sniffed at them and held
26 wet fingers up to sense the wind. And the horses were nervous while the clouds
27 were up. The rainheads dropped a little spattering and hurried on to some other country.
28 Behind them the sky was pale again and the sun flared. In the dust there were drop
29 craters where the rain had fallen, and there were clean splashes on the corn, and that was all.

from *The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

11. 'The last rains came gently, and they did not cut the scarred earth'

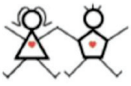
What does this line tell us about the state of the earth?

[3]

12. What effect does the personification of the 'rainheads' have on the reader?

[4]





13. Why are the men in the fields holding their 'wet fingers up to sense the wind'?

[3]

14. What does the pale earth symbolise?

- A. The sadness of the characters
- B. The heat of the sun
- C. The dustbowl era
- D. The loneliness of the narrator
- E. The infertility of the land

[1]

15. How can you infer that this narrative is written at the beginning of the dustbowl era?

- A. The author uses old-fashioned language
- B. The author states that the weeds become a darker green
- C. The author describes how the dirt crust becomes dust
- D. The author uses the word 'wagon'
- E. The narrative is not written at the beginning of the dustbowl era

[1]

