SOLIHULL JUNIOR SCHOOL

9+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

SAMPLE PAPER 1

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SAMPLE PAPER

Time: 1 hour

The paper is divided into **TWO** sections, **SECTION A** and **SECTION B**. Answer each section on **SEPARATE** sheets of paper. Please write your answers clearly and neatly in sentences. Credit will be given for correct spelling, punctuation and neat writing.

SECTION A

COMPREHENSION

The Midnight Fox

I had just finished writing a letter and was waiting for a minute to see if I would think of anything to add when I looked up and saw the black fox.

I did not believe it for a minute. It was like my eyes were playing a trick or something, because I was just sort of staring across this field, thinking about my letter, and then in the distance, where the grass was very green, I saw a fox leaping over the crest of the field. The grass moved and the fox sprang towards the movement, and then, seeing that it was just the wind that had caused the grass to move, she ran straight for the grove of trees where I was sitting.

It was so great that I wanted it to start over again, like you can turn some movie film back and see yourself repeat one fine thing you have done, and I wanted to see the fox leaping over the grass again. In all my life I have never been so excited.

I did not move at all, but I could hear the paper in my hand shaking, and my heart seemed to have moved up my body and got stuck in my throat.

The fox came straight towards the grove of trees. She wasn't afraid, and I knew she had not seen me against the tree. I stayed absolutely still even though I felt like jumping up and screaming, "Aunt Millie! Uncle Fred! Come see this. It's a fox, *a fox*!" Her steps as she crossed the field were lighter and quicker than a cat's. As she came closer I could see that her black fur was tipped with white. It was as if it were midnight and the moon were shining on her fur, frosting it. The wind parted her fur as it changed directions. Suddenly she stopped. She was ten feet away now, and with the changing of the wind she got my scent. She looked right at me.

I did not move for a minute and neither did she. Her head was cocked to one side, her tail curled up, her front left foot raised. In all my life I never saw anything like that fox standing there with her pale green golden eyes on me and this great black fur being blown by the wind.

Suddenly her nose quivered. It was such a slight movement I almost didn't see it, and then her mouth opened and I could see the pink tip of her tongue. She turned. She still was not afraid, but with a bound that was lighter than the wind – it was as if she was being blown away over the field – she was gone.

Still I didn't move. I couldn't. I couldn't believe that I had really seen the fox.

ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN FULL SENTENCES. LOOK CAREFULLY AT HOW MANY MARKS WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH ANSWER. USE THE STORY TO HELP YOU.

1. What had the boy just finished doing when he first saw the fox? (1mark)

_____

2. Why did the boy think his eyes were playing a trick on him? (1 mark)

_____

3. What made the fox spring forwards? (2 marks)

_____

_____

4. Why do you think the boy wanted to see the fox leaping over the grass again, just as if he was rewinding and playing a movie scene again and again? (2 marks)

_____

_____

5. How did the excitement of seeing the fox affect the boy's body? (2 marks)

_____

_____

6. Why did the boy stay still instead of shouting for his aunt and uncle? (1 mark)

_____

7. How did the boy know that the fox had caught his scent? (2 marks)

_____

_____

8. How does the boy describe the fox's appearance as she crept closer? (2 marks)

_____

_____

9. Why do you think this fox was so special to the boy? (2 marks)

_____

_____

10. Why do you think the boy did not move as soon as the fox disappeared? (2 marks)

_____

_____

11. Describe what you would do next if you were the boy in the story. (3 marks)

_____

_____

_____

TOTAL 20 Marks

SECTION B

STORY

Imagine that you have been asked to write the next chapter of the book 'The Midnight Fox.'

Write the next chapter of the story, and describe what happened the next time the boy saw the fox.

Think about:

The place where the fox and boy met again.

When the boy saw the midnight fox for the second time.

What was the fox doing?

Did the boy tell anyone else about the fox?

What happened when the boy saw the fox this time?

Remember to make your story as exciting and interesting as possible.

You should try to write at least one side of A4.

TOTAL 30 Marks