BENENDEN

Lower School Entrance 2019

ENGLISH

11+

1 Hour

Name:	……
School:	……
Date:	……

Instructions to Candidates:

- Each question is worth 50 marks. Answer them both.

Reading the following poem carefully. Then answer the following questions.

The Cherry Stump

Years ago friends had a cherry tree,
big and dark in their front garden.
for one week in each year it flashed white
and for the rest did nothing
but breed dark in through the window.

It was badly planted, too close.
Its dirty bark scratted the guests' clothes,
its twigs brushed the gatepost.

They cut the tree down and the small bare
garden was bright, the windows were oblong,
not shifting lozenges beating back green.

They left a sudden stump and a frill of sawdust.
They had no choice but to poison the stump:
the tree would grow back on them, it must
rise up somehow, throwing out suckers.
Its life would snake up.

A big dark cherry like that, shaking itself –
it's not enough that you cut it to earth.
It has to be tracked through the soil by its roots
and where it is found, smoked out.

Helen Dunmore

1. **How does Helen Dunmore describe the life of the tree in her poem?**

You should consider:

- The poet's use of descriptive language
- The poet's use of imagery
- The poet's use of stanzas (verses)

(50 marks)

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2. Write a description of a natural object like a tree, a shell or a wild animal. It could be realistic and something you know well, or perhaps magical and unusual. Do not forget to give your piece a title.

(50 marks)

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Total for paper: 100 marks