Surname	First Name
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Christ's Hospital Entrance Tests 2015-16
ENGLISH - Year 7

A GRAVE MISUNDERSTANDING



There are two sections, section A and section B. In section A read the passage and answer the questions. In section B you will continue the story from the passage.

First you have five minutes to read the passage. Take more time if you need it. Then spend about 30 minutes on each section.

If you get time check your work carefully.

FOR MARKER'S USE ONLY

Section A	Section B	SPG	Total

Special notes:

Section A: Read the passage on the sheet carefully, and answer the questions which follow.

A GRAVE MISUNDERSTANDING by Leon Garfield (adapted)

I am a dog. I think you ought to know right away. I don't want to save it for later, because you might wonder what sort of person it was who went about on all fours, sniffing at bottoms and peeing up against lampposts in the public street. You wouldn't like it, would you? I am fond of a good walk and love smoked salmon. I don't do much reading, though. I find it hard to turn the pages. On the other paw, give me a good deep snoutful of mingled air from a rubbish dump. There are rhymes in rancid odours and every puddle tells a story.

We see things, we dogs. Only the other day, when me and my Person were out walking, and going as brisk as biscuits through that green and quiet place where people bury their bones and never dig them up, I saw a ghost. She was the lifeless shell of a young female person who lay not very far away. I stopped. I glared. I growled. My hair stood on end. A breeze blew right through her, like frozen flowers.

'What a beautiful dog,' said the ghost. Her eyes were very come hither-ish.
'Thank you,' said my Person, with a foolish smile. 'Best of breed at Cruft's you know.'
'Does he bite?' asked the ghost, her voice a tempting whisper.
'SHE'S DEAD! SHE'S DEAD!' I barked.
'Stop barking!' My Person looked at the ghost with Springtime in his eyes. 'He wouldn't hurt a fly. Do you come here often?'
'Every day,' murmured the ghost in a silky voice, as light as the air.
'COME AWAY! COME AWAY,' I woofed.
'Stop barking!' said my Person. Do you want to wake up the dead?' And with a silly expression on his face, he started to sing: 'I will give you the keys of heaven, I will give you the keys of my heart…'
If only he could smell the dust inside her head, I thought. 'SHE'S COLD! SHE'S EMPTY! SHE'S GRANDDAUGHTER DEATH!'
'Stop barking!' He turned to her. 'What I mean to say is, would you like to have dinner with me?'
'So long as it's not spaghetti,' breathed the ghost. 'It reminds me of worms.'
'DON'T DO IT! YOU'LL BE BRINGING DEATH INTO OUR HOUSE!'
'Stop barking!' said my Person. 'Tomorrow evening, then?'

It was then I broke free. I jerked forward with all my strength and wrenched the lead from my Person's grasp. For a moment I stared into the ghost's eyes, and she stared into mine. It was like jumping through cobwebs and feathers. And when I turned, she had vanished like a puff of air. I saw the grass tremble and shiver and I knew she had gone back to her bones. I went back to my Person. He had collapsed on a bench and was holding his head in his hands. I tried to comfort him by licking his ear. 'SHE WAS DEAD! SHE WAS DEAD! I TOLD YOU!'

A female person walked by. She was young and smooth and shining. She smelled of coffee. She was dressed in the softest of white.
'Oh my, what a beautiful dog,' she said.
'GO ON! GO ON,' I barked. 'BEST OF BREED AT CRUFT'S!'
'Hush,' said the female person. 'You'll wake up the dead!'
'Is she real?' whispered my person. His eyes were as round as tins. 'Or is she a ghost? Why don't you try to jump through her like you did before. Jump! Jump!'
'BUT SHE'S REAL! SHE'S REAL!'
'Stop barking and jump!'
'BUT SHE'S ALIVE!'

So I jumped. She screamed – not with fright, but with rage. My paws were still thick and filthy with churchyard mud, and, in a moment, so was her dress.
'You are a madman,' she shouted at my shamefaced Person. 'You told him to jump! You are not fit to have a dog!'
'But-. But-' he cried as she stormed away, to report him, she said.
'I TOLD YOU SHE WAS ALIVE! I TOLD YOU SO!'
'Stop barking!' said my person. 'Please, just stop barking!'

1. Read paragraph 1. Write down two things the dog says he likes. (2 marks)

(1) _____ **(2)**_____

2. Reread paragraph 2. (11 marks)

'that green and quiet place where people bury their bones and never dig them up…' What sort of place do you think the dog is describing?

_____

Using the same sort of doggy language write a sentence to describe

(a) A park

_____

_____

(b) A pub

_____

_____

'I stopped. I glared. I growled.' Using your own words, say exactly what the dog does in each of these verbs.

Stopped _____

Glared _____

Growled _____

3. In paragraph 3 there are several phrases which describe the girl the 'Person' meets and the 'Person's' reaction to her.

<u>In a sentence of your own words</u> say what each of these phrases tell you about the way the Person or the girl was looking or behaving. (12 marks)

(i) her eyes were very come-hitherish

_____

_____

(ii) with a foolish smile

_____

_____

(iii) with Springtime in his eyes

_____

_____

(iv) she breathed, in a silky voice

_____

_____

4. Re-read paragraph 4 and answer the questions. (6 marks)

Find and write down two VERBS (doing words) from paragraph 4 that describe violent movements.

1. _____ 2. _____

Find and write down two VERBS from paragraph 4 that could mean 'shake with fear'.

3._____ 4. _____

Using your own words write down the two reasons you know that the Person is feeling sad or disappointed at the end of paragraph 4.

5._____ _____

6. _____

5. **Thinking about the whole passage, who do you think is cleverer, the dog or the person? Write your answer in two or three sentences of your own words, giving evidence from the passage to support your points. (4 marks)**

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6. **The author uses interesting images and comparisons ('metaphors') in the passage. Reread each of the following sentences and answer the questions on them**. (15 marks)

(i) 'her eyes were round as tins' (paragraph 5)
(a) *Exactly* what is the writer saying about the girl's eyes? Use a sentence of your own words to describe what picture the words put in your mind.

_____

_____

(b) Using your imagination and trying to think of the best words you can, suggest another image that could have been used in exactly the same place in the passage.

_____

(ii) 'It was like jumping through cobwebs and feathers' (paragraph 4)
(a) *Exactly* what does the dog feel like at this moment? Use a sentence of your own words to describe the feeling.

_____

_____

(b) Using your imagination and trying to think of the best words you can, suggest another image that could have been used in exactly the same place in the passage.

_____

(iii) 'like frozen flowers' (paragraph 2)

(a) Exactly what is the writer saying about the breeze? Use a sentence of your own words to describe the impression the author gives.

_____

_____

(b) Using your imagination and trying to think of the best words you can, suggest another image that could have been used in exactly the same place in the passage.

_____

SECTION B

Write your own story in which the dog and the Person you have been reading about have another adventure.

Write a quick plan on this page which shows that your story will have a beginning, a middle and an end.

Then, write up your story, using the best language you can to make your story vivid and well-written.

Write your story as if you are the dog, just as in the original.

Try to write between 1 and 2 sides.

PLANNING SPACE

end of paper