Bond

No.1 for exam success

Focus on Comprehension

Test 1
Answers

This booklet contains:

- Answers for comprehension practice test 1.

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Answers

1 Line 2 states 'I sit in the top of the wood, my eyes closed.' This implies that the hawk is resting or roosting rather than flying. Explanation needed with reference to the text for mark to be awarded.

2 a *practise* [**1**] b *branch*, *bough* [**1**]

3 This is a poem because:

- it is written in six verses (stanzas) [**1**]
- the lines are shorter than prose [**1**]
- each line starts with a capital letter [**1**]
- it uses punctuation to create rhythmic effects. [**1**]

4 The hawk is the narrator. [**1**] The text is written in the first person narrative, shown by pronouns that are used throughout, such as '**I** sit'; '**my** eye'. [**1**]

5 Writing from the hawk's point of view allows the bird to be personified; giving it a voice so it can explain how it thinks and feels about its life. [**1**] This enables the reader to understand the bird's motivations and creates a more vivid reaction from the reader. [**1**]

6 a Tall trees are convenient for hawks and other birds, as the higher up a bird is, the more of the ground they can see. [**1**] This makes it easier to spot prey. [**1**]

b Air currents make it possible for birds to 'float'. [**1**] A bird can move up and down with the changes in air pressure. [**1**]

c The hawk is sitting on a branch with its feet 'locked upon the rough bark'. [**1**] As trees are part of the natural world, the hawk is holding Creation in its foot. [**1**]

And:

Hawks swoop down on their prey and grasp it in their talons. [**1**] As the hawk talks of death in the next verse, this phrase could refer to the creatures that it kills and carries with its feet. [**1**]

d 'Sophistry' means using false statements to deceive. [**1**] The hawk does not attempt to hide its motives or reason for being, as it is stating clearly that it is a bird of prey, designed to 'tear off heads' and to bring death. [**1**]

7 personification

8
- Sitting in tree tops enables a clear view of the ground below [**1**]; 'I sit in the top of the wood…' / 'The convenience of the high trees!' [**1**]
- Hawks can use air currents and the sunlight to help fly high above the ground and look for prey [**1**]; 'The air's buoyancy and the sun's ray/Are of advantage to me'. [**1**]
- The physical body of a hawk, with its beak and talons, is built for hunting and tearing flesh [**1**]; '… my hooked head and hooked feet'. [**1**]
- Hawks can judge their attacks well, flying straight for their prey [**1**]; 'For the one path of my flight is direct'. [**1**]

9
- regal [**1**]: feels like a king sitting 'in the top of the wood' [**1**]
- a perfectionist [**1**]: 'Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat' [**1**]
- self-important, arrogant, feels in charge [**1**]: 'Now I hold Creation in my foot'; 'I kill where I please because it is all mine' [**1**]
- unemotional, matter-of-fact [**1**]: 'There is no sophistry in my body: /My manners are tearing off heads – '. [**1**]

10
- Up to [**2**] marks for a clear, structured argument and conclusion.
- Up to [**2**] marks for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- [**1**] mark for each individual, logical argument, which may cover points such as:

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Agree with statement	Disagree with statement
They have large hooked beaks and talons, which they use to tear flesh as stated in the text.	They are beautiful, intelligent birds whose natural instinct is to kill in order to survive.
If there are many birds of prey in an area they could cause the decline of small mammal or bird populations.	Often wrongly accused of causing decline in bird and small mammal populations. Humans do far more damage by eroding habitats to build new roads, homes and so on.
They can be a danger to humans because they can cause serious damage with their talons.	If we didn't have hawks and other birds of prey, we could become overrun with rodents and other species of bird in urban areas as well as the countryside.
Prey has little chance to escape, as most hawks use the element of 'surprise' as their main attacking weapon.	They are victims and have been in danger of decline because of pesticide poisoning.
	All creatures have the right to life.

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