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SAMPLE PAPER

11+

ENGLISH

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

BANCROFT'S SCHOOL
11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARENTS

ENGLISH

Candidates will take an English test in **two sections**. There is no separate Scholarship paper.

Section A: Reading and Understanding (45 Minutes)

The children will be asked to read two or more passages in a reading booklet and then answer questions on what they have read in a separate answer book. There are a few questions, which call for longer answers. There will also be a few multiple-choice questions. The design of the answer book indicates the type of answer required.

Questions will test a variety of comprehension skills, such as the understanding of the vocabulary, sentence structure and inferred meaning.

Section B: Writing (5 Minutes planning + 15 Minutes writing)

The children will be given an essay title asking them to take some of the ideas from the extract or poem in the Reading Booklet and develop them into their own story or description.

Marks are earned by writing relevantly and showing originality and accuracy; punctuation, spelling and grammar are all important here. They are also awarded for how well the essay is organised and how interesting it is in content.

Preparation:

Children who are familiar with the format of the Key Stage Two tests should not need any preparation other than working through the two sample papers.



Bancroft's School

Entrance Examination – English

2017

Reading Booklet

This booklet contains two pieces of writing:

On pages 1 -3 there is a passage called **An Encounter with a Scorpion**.

Read this passage and then answer the questions in **Part 1** of your answer book.

On pages 4-5 you will find a poem called **Lies**.

Read the poem and then answer the questions in **Part 2** of your answer book.

An Encounter with a Scorpion

*In this extract, Peony and her **imaginary friend** Margot have found a scorpion and decide to keep it as a pet.*

We are halfway upstairs when Mum appears at the top of the stairs, a big dark shadow.

'What have you got?' she says.

I look at the jamjar in my hands: the little black scorpion still trying to climb up the slippery glass insides, his sting up over his back and the small piece of cheese which he has not eaten.

'Nothing,' I say, looking her in the eye.

'Peony, what's in the jar?'

'Oh it's just...I just found it by the rocks, I'm going to look after it. I've given it some cheese.'

Mum starts coming down the stairs. Now the stairs are crowded, and there is no way past her. I hold my hands around the jar, trying to hide the scorpion. He is skittering at the sides, only the glass between his sting and my palm.

Her hand is reaching out to take the jar. I am holding it tight. I am scared of dropping it but it is slippery and I am also scared of putting my fingers inside to hold it better, although the scorpion is still now, flat to the glass bottom. Raindrops of sweat drip down from my neck past my heart and make a paddling pool in my belly button.

'Peony,' she snaps, 'what have you got in the jar?' She is leaning forward down the stairs, one hand holding the handrail and the other reaching for the jar, her fingers pressing around mine, looking for spaces where mine aren't. She tugs, and I let go of the jar.

As Mum brings it up to her face, the scorpion jumps, lifting his pincers and his tail again, ready to fight.

'Oh!' Mum screams and drops the jar.

The jar bounces on the step between our pairs of bare feet, then falls another two steps and bounces again. I turn to watch it, to see the glass shatter, to see what happens to the scorpion. But the jar does not break. Instead it bounces on every step, *toc*, *toc*, *toc*, and ends up on the kitchen tiles on its side.

I think of the scorpion escaping; Mum would be even madder than she is already going to be. I start to run back downstairs, to try and keep it in, but after two steps I feel the sting, then the burning on the side of my foot.

'Oh it stung me!' I cry.

I get down to the kitchen and climb up on to the bench, pulling my feet up behind me.

'It stung me, Mum! Please, it hurts!'

My foot is already starting to go red and swell up. The kitchen feels like winter. The darkness in my stomach is spreading out into my arms and legs.

Margot has her arms around me on the bench. I squeeze my eyes shut, it is black as night behind my eyes but with sparkles of colour and flashes of white. My foot is burning and I squeeze tighter and tighter. Margot is rocking me.

I am trembling in the dark, trying to think about being cuddled, but only thinking about my foot hurting more and more. Then the arms lift me up and it is not Margot anymore it is Mum, and she carries me outside into the light. She puts me on the table and looks at my foot.

'Hush, Pea, it'll be OK,' Mum says. 'I'll fix it. Wait here.'

Later I learned that the most self-effacing creatures were often the most dangerous. The scorpion would lie there quietly as you examined him, only raising his tail in an almost apologetic gesture of warning if you breathed too hard on him. However, scorpions do have quite a temper: a disturbing characteristic in a creature otherwise so impeccable.

When Mum comes back I am curled in a ball, sobbing. She unpeels me like an orange. She has a towel full of ice cubes. She presses it against my foot and one kind of hurt pushes away the other.

Lies

I like to go out for the day and tell lies.
The day should be overcast
with a kind of purple, electric edge to the clouds;
and not too hot or cold,
but cool.
I turn up the collar of my coat
and narrow my eyes.

I meet someone –
a girl from school perhaps –
I like them shy.
Then I start to lie
as we walk along Tennyson Drive kicking a can.
She listens hard,
her split strawberry mouth moist and mute;
my weasel words
sparking the little lights in her spectacles.
At the corner of Coleridge Place
I watch her run,
thrilled, fast, chasing her breath,
home to her mum.

Bus-stops I like,
with long, bored, footsore, moaning queues.
I lie to them
in my shrill, confident voice,
till the number 8 or 11 takes them away
and I stand and stare at the bend in Longfellow Road,
alone in the day.

At the end of the darkening afternoon
I head for home,
watching the lights turn on in truthful rooms
where mothers come and go
with plates of cakes,
and TV sets shuffle their bright cartoons.
Then I knock on the door of 21 Wordsworth Way,
And while I wait
I watch a spaceship zoom away overhead

and see the faint half-smile of the distant moon.
They let me in.
And who, they want to know, do I think I am?
Exactly where have I been? With whom? And why?
The thing with me –
I like to come home after a long day out
and lie.

Bancroft's School

Entrance Examination – English

2017

Reading and Understanding – Section A

Answer Book

My first name is:
My last name is:
My date of birth is:
The school I go to is:

Mark

Section A: Reading & Understanding

You have a total of 45 minutes for this test.

There are different types of questions.

The space given for your answer shows you how you need to answer each question:

- For some questions you must write only one word or phrase.
- Other questions need longer answers in one or more sentences.
- A few questions ask you to write at greater length.
- The number of marks available will also tell you how many points you need to make.

Try to answer all the questions.

Write neatly.

If you finish within the allocated time, go back and check your answers.

A new answer booklet will be issued for Section B - Writing

Part 1

These questions refer to the passage called ***An Encounter with a Scorpion*** which is on pages 1-2 of your reading booklet. The narrator, Peony, is the girl who is telling the story. In the passage, she finds a scorpion with her imaginary friend, Margot. You will probably need about 25 minutes for this section.

1. Where does Peony first see her mother?

   _____ (1)

2. Look at lines 1-8. What impression do we get of Peony's mother? Use your own words.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____ (2)

3. Look at lines 11-12. Find one word or phrase which shows that Peony feels trapped.

   _____ (1)

4. Look at lines 14-18. How does Peony feel about the jar? Use your own words.

_____

_____

_____

_____ (2)

5. Look at lines 13-24. What impression do we get of the scorpion? Use your own words.

_____

_____

_____

_____ (2)

6. Give one word or phrase of your own for “madder” as used in line 30.

_____ (1)

7. Which of the following phrases is closest in meaning to “the kitchen feels like winter” (line 37)? Tick one.

The heating in the kitchen has gone off. _____

Peony feels upset and uncomfortable in this situation. _____

The shock of the sting has made Peony feel very cold. _____

Peony has forgotten that it is summer outside. _____

(1)

8. Look at line 39 to the end of the passage. How does the sting on Peony’s foot make her feel and behave? Use your own words.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ (4)

9. What is meant by “an almost apologetic gesture of warning” in line 49?

_____

_____

_____ (2)

10. What is meant by “a disturbing characteristic in a creature otherwise so impeccable” in lines 50-51?

_____

_____

_____ (2)

11. Find a word or phrase from the final paragraph of the passage which shows Peony’s mother makes her feel less frightened.

_____ (1)

12. Looking at the whole passage, how would you describe the relationship between Peony and her mother? Give reasons for your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ (4)

Now go straight on to Part 2.

Part 2

These questions are about the poem ***Lies*** on pages 3-4 of your reading booklet. You will probably need to spend about 20 minutes on this section.

13. Look at lines 2-5 of the poem. On what sort of day does the speaker like to tell lies?

    _____

    _____

    _____ (2)

14. Look at lines 6-7. How does the speaker like to look when telling lies and why might this be?

    _____

    _____

    _____

    _____ (2)

15. Give one word or phrase of your own which means the same as "weasel" as used in line 15.

    _____ (1)

16. Look at lines 8-27. What effect do you think the speaker has on the people he/she meets? Use your own words.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ (4)

17. What do you think the poet means by “watching the lights turn on in truthful rooms” in line 30?

_____

_____

_____

_____ (2)

18. 21 Wordsworth Way is the speaker's home and 'they' are his/her family. Look at lines 34-43. What relationship does the speaker seem to have with his/her family? Use your own words.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ (4)

19. Looking back at the poem as a whole, what is it that the speaker seems to enjoy about telling lies? Use your own words, try not to repeat anything you have written before, and refer to examples in the poem.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ (4)

If you have finished, go back and check your answers until instructed to begin Section B, the Writing Test

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Writing – Section B

Answer Book

My first name is:
My last name is:
My date of birth is:
The school I go to is:

Mark

Section B : Writing

Do NOT start to write your essay until you are told to do so.

You have 20 minutes for this test.

You should use about 5 minutes for planning and 15 minutes for writing.

You will be awarded marks for organising your writing well and making the essay interesting.

Be careful with spelling, punctuation and paragraphing: You will earn more marks if your writing is accurate.

Use all of the time allowed.

At the end of the poem, the speaker goes home and is let in by their parents, who ask questions. Write about going into the house, what the speaker says and does, how the parents respond, and how the speaker feels.

You might like to write from the speaker's perspective.

(20 marks)

Use the box below to plan your essay

Writing