The Junior King's School
Canterbury

2011

Year 6
Entrance Examination (11+)
English

One Hour

Section A	**Reading**	**25 Marks**	**30 Minutes**
Section B	**Writing**	**25 marks**	**30 Minutes**

PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER SECTIONS A & B ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER

THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

Neil Gaiman's "The Graveyard Book", which is loosely based on Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book", won the prestigious Carnegie Medal this year. The orphan, Nobody Owens (known to his friends as Bod), has been brought up by ghosts. In this extract he has his first encounter with a living, breathing, girl...

"Boy? What're you doing?

Bod looked up. There was someone on the other side of the gorse bush, watching him.

"Nuffing," said Bod. He stuck out his tongue.

The face on the other side of the gorse bush crumpled into a **gargoyle**, tongue sticking out, eyes popping, then returned to girl.

"That was good," said Bod, impressed.

"I can make really good faces," said the girl. "Look at this one." She pushed her nose up with one finger, creased her mouth into a huge, satisfied smile, squinted her eyes, puffed out her cheeks. "Do you know what that was?"

"No."

"It was a pig, silly."

"Oh." Bod thought. "You mean, like P is for Pig?"

"Of course like that. Hang on."

She came around the gorse bush and stood next to Bod, who got to his feet. She was a little older than he was, a little taller, and was dressed in bright colours, yellow and pink and orange. Bod, in his grey winding sheet, felt **dowdy** and drab.

"How old are you?" said the girl. What are you doing here? Do you live here? What's your name?"

"I don't know," said Bod.

"You don't know your name?" said the girl. "Course you do. Everybody knows their own name. Fibber."

"I know my name," said Bod. "And I know what I'm doing here. But I don't know the other thing you said."

"How old are you?"

Bod nodded.

"Well," said the girl. "What was you when you was last birthday?"

"I didn't," said Bod. "I never was."

"Everybody gets birthdays. You mean you never had cake or candles or stuff?"

Bod shook his head. The girl looked at him **sympathetically**. "Poor thing. I'm five. I bet you're five too."

Bod nodded enthusiastically. He was not going to argue with his new friend. She made him happy.

Her name was Scarlett Amber Perkins she told him, and she lived in a flat with no garden. Her mother was sitting on a bench at the bottom of the hill, reading a magazine, and she told Scarlett to be back in half an hour, and to get some exercise, and not to get into trouble or talk to strangers.

[Please turn over]

"I'm a stranger," pointed out Bod.

"You're not," she said definitely, "you're a little boy," And then she said, "And you're my friend. So you can't be a stranger."

Bod smiled rarely, but he smiled then, hugely and with delight. "I'm your friend," he said.

"What's your name?"

"Bod. It's short for nobody."

She laughed then. "Funny sort of a name," she said. "What are you doing now?"

"ABCs," said Bod. "From the stones. I have to write them down."

"Can I do it with you?"

For a moment Bod felt protective – the gravestones were *his*, weren't they? – and then he realised how foolish he was being, and he thought that there were things that might be more fun done in the sunlight with a friend. He said "Yes."

They copied down names from the tombstones, Scarlett helping Bod pronounce unfamiliar names and words, Bod telling Scarlett what the Latin meant, if he already knew, and it seemed much too soon when they heard a voice further down the hill shouting "Scarlett!"

The girl thrust the crayons and paper back at Bod. "I got to go," she said.

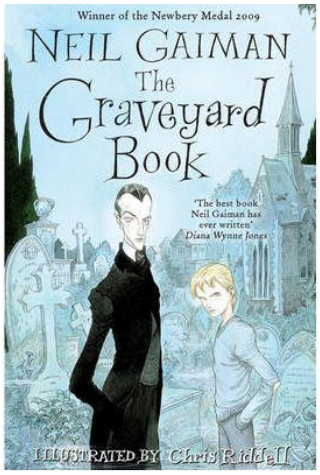
"I'll see you next time," said Bod. "Won't I?"

"Where do you live?" she asked.

"Here," he said. And he stood and watched her as she ran down the hill.

On the way home Scarlett told her mother about the boy called Nobody who lived in the graveyard and had played with her, and that night Scarlett's mother mentioned it to Scarlett's father, who said that he believed that imaginary friends were a common phenomenon at that age, and nothing to be concerned about and that they were fortunate to have a nature reserve so near.

After that **initial** meeting, Scarlett never saw Bod first. On days when it was not raining one of her parents would bring her to the graveyard. The parent would sit on the bench and read while Scarlett would wander off the path, a splash of fluorescent green, orange or pink, and explore. Then, always sooner rather than later, she would see a small, grave face and grey eyes staring up at her from beneath a mop of mouse-coloured hair, and then Bod and she would play – hide and seek, sometimes, or climbing things, or being quiet and watching rabbits behind the old chapel.



Section A Reading Comprehension 30 minutes

*Read the passage from "The Graveyard Book" **twice** and then answer the questions below. Remember to write full sentences except for questions 1 and 3.*

1. Copy the word or group of words that explains what happened in the beginning of the extract from "The Graveyard Book".

   a) Bod looked around the
   gravestone **chapel** **gorse bush**

   b) Scarlett was
   the same size as Bod
   taller than Bod
   shorter than Bod

   c) The children were aged
   five **seven** **ten** **[3]**

2. Why do you think that Scarlett was playing in a graveyard? **[2]**

3. In a table of three columns, write down the list of the four underlined words in the passage. In the second column, state what part of speech each word is. In the third write a different word or phrase which means more or less the same.

WORD	***PART OF SPEECH***	***SYNONYM / EQUIVALENT PHRASE***
gargoyle		
dowdy		
sympathetically		
initial		

[4]

4. Why does Bod not want to write down 'ABCs' with Scarlett at first? **[3]**

5. How do we know that Bod enjoyed playing with Scarlett? Give three reasons. **[6]**

6. Use any remaining time to write what impressions of Scarlett you get from the passage. You should write about her appearance and character. Write as fully as you can and refer to the passage to support your opinions. **[7]**

[25 marks]

Section B Creative Writing 30 minutes

The extract from "The Graveyard Book" described the first time Scarlett met Bod – the beginning of an important relationship in both of their lives.

Your task is to write a similar piece entitled

FIRST MEETING

Write about a situation where two people encounter each other for the first time. Your ending should leave us feeling that they are likely to go on to become great friends or great enemies...

REMEMBER

You will be marked on the quality and accuracy of your writing as well as your ideas so take great care with your vocabulary, use of language, punctuation and spelling.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- **Tell your reader where and when this meeting took place**
- **Give your characters names and use the third person (he / she) NOT the first person (I).**
- **Describe the two people – both their appearances and characters**
- **Tell us what happened**
- **Finish with a parting and the feelings of the characters**
- **Aim to write about one side** **[25 Marks]**