North London Collegiate School

YEAR 7

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Friday 11th January 2008

ENGLISH

Time: I hour 15 minutes

Name:_____

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE ANSWER BOTH PARTS OF THE EXAMINATION

Part A: Reading (approx 45 minutes)

- Spend 10 minutes reading the story and the questions in the booklet.
- You will be told when the 10 minutes are over.
- You can mark the story by underlining words and phrases.
- Do not write anything in the booklet during this time.

Spend about 35 minutes writing your answers in the answer booklet.

Part B: Writing (approx 30 minutes)

- Make sure you put your name at the top of the paper.

Spend about 30 minutes writing on the paper provided.

YOU MAY WRITE IN EITHER INK OR PENCIL

READING PASSAGE

Grace and Madeleine are identical twins.

Grace and Madeleine's mother had sent them to find wood for the fire. As they climbed up towards the forest the long grass was still very wet underfoot, spongy and slippery. It felt like a puppy they could not get rid of, who kept sniffing at their feet and slowing them down.

'This is fun,' Grace said.

Madeleine pulled a face and tipped up her foot to show that the sole of her boot was leaking. Grace pouted in sympathy. They arrived at the forest. They collected some wood, and were about to split it between them and stagger down with it when they saw Colin coming. He had his head down, pretending not to see them.

Grace and Madeleine didn't have to say anything. They just looked at each other.

Shall we tease him or be nice?
Tease first, then nice.
That's what I thought.

Madeleine waved to Colin. 'If you can catch us, I'll give you something nice!' she shouted.

Grace giggled. 'And if you can't, you can carry all the firewood down!'

'I'll catch you both, then,' Colin laughed. He ran towards them, hopping from side to side to stop them in their tracks as they danced away from him.

'Which of us do you want, Colin?' Madeleine teased him. 'Me or Madeleine?'

And Grace echoed, 'Me or Grace? Or me and Madeleine?'

'Or Madeleine?' Madeleine chanted, and gave him her special smile, sure that this time he would know one from the other of them and say her name out loud.

'But you'll have to catch her first,' said Grace, dancing back and round him in that elfin way of hers, which Madeleine copied immediately. Colin laughed out loud, pretending to ignore Grace, and then when he turned towards her he caught her red ribbon. She twisted out of his reach and ran, head back, so her hair streamed. He grasped out for her again and Madeleine ran between them, letting her own hair loose, so her blue ribbon floated away and tangled with Grace's red one.

'Maddy? Is it you? It is, isn't it? Got you this time!' Colin laughed.

Madeleine lingered just for a moment, letting him nearly catch her; his arm just trailed across her shoulder and then she skipped away too. And the chase was on, that never should have been on. First it was Grace and then it was Madeleine, and Colin still darting after them, zigzagging from the one to the other, the three stumbling and giggling as they hurtled down the slope and on to the track to the river.

Grace ran ahead and Colin was nearly with her, heading for the river. When she reached the bank of the river, she turned and shouted to Colin, 'You can't catch me!' But the bank was wet from the rain, and she lost her footing. The river was deep and the current was fast. As she landed in the water, Colin felt as if he had been kicked in the stomach. *If it's Madeleine, she can swim,* he thought, *if it's Grace she can't.*

What happened next changed all their lives forever.

Based on an extract from *Deep Secret* by Berlie Doherty

PART A READING

After you have spent 10 minutes reading the passage, spend about 35 minutes answering these questions.

Comprehension questions

1. What had Grace and Madeleine's mother sent them to do?

_____ ☐

(1 mark)

2. Give two reasons why the grass is described as 'spongy'. (Line 2)

_____

_____ ☐

(2 marks)

3. (i) What is the grass compared to?

_____ ☐

(1 mark)

(ii) Give three things this comparison tells us about the grass.

_____

_____

_____ ☐

(3 marks)

4. What does Grace mean when she says 'This is fun'? (Line 4).

_____

_____ ☐

(2 marks)

5. Explain **in your own words** the meaning of these words:

(i) 'pouted' in line 6

_____

_____

(2 marks)

(ii) 'stagger' in line 7

_____

_____

(2 marks)

(iii) 'zigzagging' in line 30

_____

(2 marks)

(iv) 'hurtled' in line 31

_____

(2 marks)

6. Why do you think Colin was 'pretending not to see them'? (Line 8)

_____

_____

(2 marks)

7. Why did Grace and Madeleine not have to say anything to each other in lines 9-12?

_____

_____

(2 marks)

8. What advantage do Grace and Madeleine have over Colin when they are teasing him?

_____

_____

(2 marks)

9. Why do you think Madeleine gives Colin 'her special smile' in line 19?

_____

_____

(2 marks)

10. **In your own words**, describe the way Grace moves in lines 21-22.

_____

_____

(2 marks)

11. Look again at lines 24-26. Why do you think Grace and Madeleine wear different coloured ribbons?

_____

(1 mark)

12. Which two words from this list best describe Grace and Madeleine?

- Cautious
- Kind
- Close
- Mischievous
- Shy

i) _____

ii) _____

(2 marks)

13. Why does the writer say the chase 'never should have been on'? (Line 29)

_____

_____ ☐

(2 marks)

14. Why did Colin feel 'as if he had been kicked in the stomach'? (Line 36)

_____

_____ ☐

(2 marks)

TOTAL: 34 marks

PART B WRITING

Spend about 30 minutes on your writing.
Remember to leave time to check your work carefully

Continue the story from where this passage ends, just after Grace has fallen in the river. Do not introduce any new characters.