North London Collegiate School

11+ ENTRANCE EXAM

Friday 16th January 2009

ENGLISH

Time: 1 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

Never Trust a Parrot.

The parrot had come from Jamie's aunt, who had seen him in a pet shop. Aunt Cleo was immediately seduced by the parrot's fabulous colouring, the black glitter of his eyes and the wonderful way in which he greeted Cleo's entrance in the shop. 'Hail to her Majethty, Empweth of the Fowetht!'

Aunt Cleo bought the parrot on the spot, despite the fact that she was always going away on business and so couldn't be around to look after it much. She gave it to Jamie's family to care for instead. Aunt Cleo was like that. She was always buying animals and then giving them to Jamie's family. So far they had a giant lop-eared rabbit (Cleo: 'It's got ears like blankets!'), a chameleon (Cleo: You'll never have another fly in the house!), a Llama they kept in the garden (Cleo: A Llama is the best burglar deterrent you can have, in fact it's a burglar allarma!), and now a parrot.

But Nemesis was different. For a start he could speak, and then there were those dark eyes, as dark as the depths of a tropical rain forest by night; a darkness haunted by the soft footfall of the passing tiger, and the silent slither of the anaconda. There was something of the night in Nemesis, especially the way he skulked in his cage, cracking open sunflower seeds and spitting the shells at Jamie while he slept. Then he'd whisper, 'I am your fwend.'

Jamie tried to teach Nemesis some *new* words. In revenge for the bite on his finger Jamie began with, 'Around the ragged rocks the ragged rascal ran.' This of course came out as, 'Awound the wagged wocks,' which was as far as Nemesis got, before clicking his tongue in disapproval and hanging upside down. Jamie had already learnt that this was usually a warning that the bird was about to have a temper tantrum. Sometimes the parrot seemed more human than bird.

Three days after the arrival of Nemesis, Jamie felt his injured finger itching and scratched it. That was when he first noticed the tiny fluff that had gathered round the edge of the bruising. He showed it to his mother.

'When your skin itches like that, it's a good sign. It shows that the cut is healing,' she said.

'My finger wasn't cut. It was just sort of – squeezed, very hard,' Jamie pointed out. 'By a parrot.'

His mother smiled brightly. 'I'm sure it's on the mend,' she insisted, and *she* clicked her tongue, as if to underline everything.

It was not long after Nemesis bit Jamie that other things began to happen.

Based on an extract from *Never Trust A Parrot* by Jeremy Strong

PART A READING

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

Comprehension questions

1. Find **two things** in the first paragraph which are special about the parrot's appearance.

   i) _____

   ii) _____ ☐

   (2 marks)

2. Find **two words** in paragraph 1 which tell you that Aunt Cleo was impressed by the bird when she saw it.

   Word one _____ ☐

   Word two_____

   (2 marks)

3. **Explain in your own words** why Aunt Cleo liked the parrot's greeting. (Lines 3 and 4.)

   _____ ☐

   _____ (2 marks)

4. **Explain in your own words** what evidence there is that Aunt Cleo is not a very practical person.

   _____ ☐

   _____ (2 marks)

5. Re-read lines 12 to 15. **Explain in your own words** what kind of place or what country the parrot's eyes suggest it might have come from.

_____ (2 marks)

6. a) In paragraph 3 which **one word** compares the tiger to a ghost?

_____ (1 mark)

b) **Explain in your own words** the way in which the writer makes the tiger seem like a ghost.

_____

_____ (2 marks)

7. What do the following words mean?

Deterrent (line 10) _____

Slither (line 14) _____

Skulked (line 15) _____ (6 marks)

8. Do you think the parrot is Jamie's friend? Tick the correct box.

Yes ☐ No ☐ ☐

Give a reason for your answer.

(1 mark)

_____ ☐

_____

(2 marks)

9. **In your own words**, explain how Jamie takes revenge on the parrot.

_____

_____ ☐

(3 marks)

10. Lines 19 to 23 say that the parrot seems more human than bird. Apart from the fact that it can talk, find **two** reasons that Jamie thinks the parrot seems quite human? You **may** use some words from the passage in your explanation.

Reason one_____

_____

Reason two_____

_____ ☐

(4 marks)

11. <u>Nemesis</u> means something which causes someone's downfall. Explain why this is a good name for the parrot.

_____

_____ ☐

_____ (3 marks)

PART B: WRITING

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

This is an extract from *Never Trust A Parrot*. Do not worry if you have read the book or not. You will be marked on the quality of your writing, not your knowledge of the book.

Continue the story, making up things that began to happen to Jamie after the parrot bit him. Do not introduce any new characters.

"You **MUST** write this story on the **separate** lined paper provided"