North London Collegiate School

11+ ENTRANCE EXAM

Friday 8th January 2010

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

Molly and her sister Hannah are staying with their grandparents. Hannah has just had an argument with grandmother and stormed upstairs.

Me and Grandpa are left in the kitchen. Grandpa rubs at his face, just the way my dad does. He breathes in this big breath – I can see his stomach rising, under the faded check cloth of his shirt. It's gone a nasty yellow around his neck and against the cuffs. My dad's shirts are always stiff and clean and white: you button him up all the way to his throat and there he is, locked up safe and going nowhere. But Grandpa Lived Through A War, so he wears things till they fall apart.

"All right, love?" he says now, and I nod.

"*You* don't want me to die in a field, do you?" he says, and I shake my head.

"You shouldn't listen to Hannah," I tell him. "She's always like that. Dad should have put her in an orphanage or something, instead of sending her here. She would have liked that, I expect," I add, virtuous, "since she doesn't want to live here".

Grandpa comes over and pats my shoulder. "Now, now," he says, in an absent sort of way. "No one's going to any orphanage."

But why not? If Dad could send us here, he could send us anywhere.

I go through the back door of the shop, into the hall and up the narrow stairs. The shop is part of Grandma and Grandpa's house, so all of their rooms are muddled: the kitchen is downstairs, next to the storeroom, but the living room is upstairs. At night, when I lie in bed, the light from the television flickers against the landing wall, and studio laughter plays across my dreams. Everything is darker here, and older. Nothing matches, so you'll have our old settee from Newcastle next to a high-backed red chair with feet like a lion. There's a dark wood bookcase, with glass doors, where Delia Smith and Dick Francis sit beside ancient cloth-bound books with gold and silver printed up the spine.

The room I have here was Auntie Meg's when she was my age. It's got horrible yellow wallpaper and a grown-up picture of a tree, and a yellowy sink in the corner that doesn't work. Some of my things are here – my old bear Humphrey, my best books, my art things. But nearly all of my stuff is still at home, because we're not staying here for ever, just until Dad gets things Sorted Out.

Whenever that is.

I take dry clothes out of the wardrobe – blue jeans and my soft yellow jumper – but I don't put them on. I wrap my arms around them and stand by the window looking out over the garden. The rain is rat-a-tat-tat-ing on the roof and streaming down the windows. The trees are roaring with the wind in them, more like they're fighting now than talking.

"Listen"! Mum would say, if she was here. "There's a night with a devil in it."

It wouldn't be a bad thing – the devil in the night – but something exciting. Mum loved thunder-and-rain-storms. If she was here now, like if we were staying with Grandpa and Grandma because it was a holiday maybe, we'd go out and jump in the puddles. Even Hannah would, probably.

It's not dark yet, but you can tell that tonight isn't going to be fun. The sky is full of anger and the trees are raging like they want to kill someone. Standing here alone by the window, I almost believe in a devil in the rain.

Inside, the house is full of fighting too. I can hear Hannah next door, crying. I can hear Grandma downstairs, her voice high and angry, and Grandpa, murmuring at her.

I put on my dry clothes and climb into bed, pulling the funny old-fashioned quilt-and-blanket over my head. I get my book out and read, trying not to listen to the

loneliness of being alone in a house full of noise. I'm reading *Three Cheers, Secret Seven*, which is Secret Seven book eight, so when I'm done I'll only need to read six more and I'll have read all the Famous Five and Secret Seven books there are.

Outside, the rain falls quieter now.

It's getting dark.

PART A: READING

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

Comprehension questions

1. a) What does Molly notice that her Grandpa has in common with her father?

_____

1. b) What does Molly notice that is different between her Grandpa and her father?

_____ □

(2 marks)

2. The word 'virtuous' is used in line 11. What does it show about the way Molly is feeling?

_____ □

(2 marks)

3. Look again at line 14. In your own words, write a sentence, explaining how Molly is feeling about her future.

_____

_____ □

(2 marks)

4. Write down two words from the passage (lines 15-20) which contrasts this house with Hannah's home.

Word one: _____

Word two: _____

(2 marks)

5. Molly can hear the television when she is in bed at night. What does Molly mean when she says 'studio laughter plays across my dreams'?

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

6. Certain phrases in the passage are written using capital letters: 'Grandpa Lived Through A War' (lines 5-6) and '…until Dad gets things Sorted Out' (line 28). Explain why you think the author has used capital letters.

_____

_____

(2 marks)

7. 'Whenever that is' (line 29) is emphasized by being placed in a paragraph by itself. Why do you think the writer does this?

_____

_____

_____

(3 marks)

8. Re-read lines 30-32. Write a sentence explaining why Molly wraps her arms around her 'blue jeans' and 'soft yellow jumper'.

_____

_____

(2 marks)

9. In lines 32-34, find two words that convey the strength of the storm.

Word one: _____

Word two: _____

(2 marks)

10. a) Explain the following statement: 'The sky is full of anger' (lines 40-41)

_____

_____

(1 mark)

b) How does this reflect what is happening inside?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

11. In line 47, Molly says that she feels lonely in a 'house full of noise.' What do you think she means when she says this?

_____

_____

_____

(2 marks)

12. Consider the whole passage. How do the characters of Molly's mother and father seem different? **Use your own words and quote from the passage** to explain the differences.

(8 marks)

PART B: WRITING

Spend about 30 minutes on your writing.
Remember to leave time to check your work carefully.
Please write on the lined paper.

Hannah (Molly's sister) is very 'different' to Molly. Writing as if you were Hannah, how would you describe the same evening?