North London Collegiate School

11+ ENTRANCE EXAM

Friday 14th January 2011

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 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

She walked the children to school through the rain. All the way up Gutherie Road and Arlington Rise, all along Bedford Crescent and Southfield Street, the cars stood stationary in lines. Their lights glowed like devilish pairs of eyes. The rain fell on their impervious metal roofs. Heat came in great sheets of steam off their armoured bonnets. The arms of their windscreen wipers went back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. In each one sat a man in a garish tie and a crisp ironed shirt, his suit jacket hanging from a peg beside the door. These men glanced at Juliet as she went by, one after another through their beaded windscreens.

She went along the leaden pavements holding her insubstantial umbrella. Katherine was holding her hand. Barnaby was walking behind, with his hood up and his hands in his pockets. The children were wearing Wellingtons, but the water had soaked Juliet's tights up to the knee. She laboured along the pavement, burdened, bedraggled, while the men looked at her from their cars.

It was a mysterious place, Arlington Park; it was a suburb, a sort of enormous village really, yet even here the force of life came up strong, dealing out its hard facts, its irrepressible, universal dimensions. It was all so vigorous and uncrushable, the getting and having, the putting forth, the relentless, warlike assertion of one thing over another. It was civilization, and yet to Juliet it seemed uncivilized to the core.

She crossed the road with the children and went up the High Street. There were the shops selling cushions and scented candles, shops selling women's clothes, shops selling jewellery and silver and antiques; there were nail bars and hairdressers, beauty salons and boutiques, and a shop with a single vast cream leather sofa in the window. They passed a coffee shop and the three of them automatically turned their heads in the rain towards its gorgeous aroma. Juliet gave a pound to a man sitting in his sleeping bag in the doorway. He lifted his plastic cup to her in gentlemanly salute.

Barnaby thought she shouldn't have done it.

'That's our money,' he said. 'You shouldn't have given it to him.

'He needs it more than we do,' Juliet said.

'Then why doesn't he get some himself?' Barnaby said.

'We could give him more things we don't need,' Katherine said. 'We could give him our house.'

Juliet laughed. 'But we do need our house!'

'We could have a smaller house,' Katherine said.

'That's true,' Juliet said. 'We could all have less of everything.'

Barnaby kicked a lamppost and muttered something under his breath.

'What was that?' Juliet said.

'Nothing.'

'No, go on, tell me what you said.'

'It was nothing.'

'You said you hated mummy,' Katherine told him quietly.

'I did not.'

'You did! Mummy, he did! I heard him!'

When they reached the school Juliet put the children in their classrooms and returned outside to the falling rain.

She walked back along the High Street in the rain and saw that the shutters were coming up. The shops were opening themselves to another day, putting their lights on, flinging themselves into the stream, into the great rude current. Juliet felt heavy, full of lead. If only she could sing, open her throat and let herself out! Then she, too, could be borne along, go forward down the river, lighter, alive! Instead, she sank like a stone through the onrush of time.

She stopped at a shop window and, pretending to look inside, stared at herself in the rain-streaked glass. The window wouldn't reflect her properly. She was just a shape, an amorphous shape with water running down her. She realised she was looking into the window not of a shop but of a hairdresser's. She saw the rows of empty white leather chairs, the mirrors, the neat arrangement of implements, ready for the day. A girl was in there. She was walking about, aligning hairbrushes, making little adjustments to things. The girl looked up. She was wearing tight black trousers and a white T-shirt; her hair was extravagantly tinted, shaved on one side and on the other fluffed up like a parakeet's tail feathers. Juliet gazed at her. What was this creature doing here, alone in this room in the rain? Where had she come from?

from *Arlington Park* by Rachel Cusk

PART A: READING

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

Comprehension questions

1. What are described in line 3 as glowing 'like devilish pairs of eyes'?

   _____ ☐

   (1 mark)

2. Find 2 phrases from lines 1-9 which describe the cars.

   i)_____ ☐

   ii)_____ (2 marks)

3. Find 2 details about the men inside the cars from lines 1-9.

   Detail 1: _____ ☐

   Detail 2: _____ (2 marks)

   Why do you think the author has described them in this way?

   _____

   _____ ☐

   _____ (3 marks)

4. Using your own words, what does the adjective 'leaden' in line 10 tell us about the day?

   _____ ☐

   _____ (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the umbrella is described as 'insubstantial' on line 10?

   _____ ☐

   (1 mark)

6. Find 2 details about Barnaby from lines 11-12.

Detail 1: _____

Detail 2: _____ (2 marks)

What do these details tell us about how Barnaby is feeling?

_____

_____ (2 marks)

7. In lines 13-14 we are told that Juliet 'laboured along the pavement, burdened, bedraggled, while the men looked at her from their cars.'
In your own words, suggest what this sentence tells us about how Juliet is feeling.

_____

_____ (2 marks)

8. Each sentence in the third paragraph (lines 15-20) begins with 'It'. Why do you think the writer does this?

_____

_____

_____ (3 marks)

9. The description of the High Street from line 21 to line 26 lists all of the different shops. What impression does this give you of Arlington Park?

_____

_____

_____

_____ (2 marks)

10. Looking at the passage as a whole and using quotations from the passage, compare the ways in which Barnaby and Katherine are portrayed, paying attention to both what they say and what they do.

(6 marks)

11. In lines 49-51 we are told that 'the shops were opening themselves to another day, putting their lights on, flinging themselves into the stream, into the great rude current.' What technique does the writer employ here and what is its effect?

- Technique: _____ (1 mark)
- Effect : _____

_____ (2 marks)

12. Giving a detailed response in your own words, why does Juliet wish 'she could sing' (line 51)?

(3 marks)

13. By thinking about the final paragraph (lines 54-64) and the passage as a whole, explain why it is that Juliet is suddenly so interested by the girl in the hairdresser's.

(4 marks)

Total: 38

PART B: WRITING

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

You are the girl in the hairdresser's. Write your thoughts as you prepare for the day.