BENENDEN

Lower School Entrance 2019

ENGLISH

12+

1 Hour

Name:	.....
School:	.....
Date:	.....

Instructions to Candidates:

- Write your answers in the space provided in this booklet.
- The total mark for the paper is 100
- The first question is based on a fiction passage; the second question is to demonstrate your own writing skills.

Read the following passage carefully. Then answer the two questions that follow.

(The passage is the opening to a novel, 'The Secret Life of Bees', written by Sue Monk Kidd)

At night I would lie in bed and watch the show, how bees squeezed through the cracks of my bedroom wall and flew circles around the room, making that propeller sound, a high-pitched *zzzzzz* that hummed along my skin. I watched their wings shining like bits of chrome in the dark and felt the longing build in my chest. The way those bees flew, not even looking for a flower, just flying for the feel of the wind, split my heart down its seam.

During the day I heard them tunnelling through the walls of my bedroom, sounding like a radio tuned to static in the next room, and I imagined them in there turning the walls into honeycombs, with honey seeping out for me to taste.

The bees came in the summer of 1964, the summer I turned fourteen and my life went spinning off into a whole new orbit, and I mean *whole new orbit*. Looking back on it now, I want to say the bees were sent to me. I want to say they showed up like the angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, setting events in motion I could never have guessed. I know it is presumptuous to compare my life to hers, but I have reason to believe she wouldn't mind; I will get to that. Right now it's enough to say that despite everything that happened that summer, I remain tender towards the bees.

1. How does the author create an interesting opening to her novel in this passage?

You may write about anything that interests you in the passage though you could include, for example:

- Her use of a first person narrator/storyteller
- Her use of description
- Her use of imagery
- Her use of any particularly interesting words

(50 marks)

(Question 2 is on Page 5)

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2. Write a story, or the start of a story, in which a human being encounters an animal.

(50 marks)

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Total for paper: 100 marks