EMANUEL SCHOOL

13+ English Examination

SAMPLE PAPER

1 HOUR

Name:_____

Current school:_____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer both Sections A and B on the A4 sheets provided, spending 30 minutes on each section.
- **Answer Section A and Section B on separate sheets of paper.**
- Put your name on each sheet.
- Check through your work carefully at the end of the exam.

SECTION A:

Read the following extract carefully, and then answer the questions that follow:

Laurie Lee, who grew up in the rural Cotswolds in the early twentieth century, describes his experience of primary school.

Miss B

She was a bunched and punitive little body and the school had christened her Crabby; she had a sour yellow look, lank hair coiled in earphones, and the skin and voice of a turkey. **We were all afraid of gobbling Miss B; she spied, she pried, she crouched, she crept, she pounced – she was a terror.**

Each morning was war without declaration; no one knew who would catch it next. We stood to attention, half-crippled in our desks, till Miss B walked in, whacked the walls with a ruler, and fixed us with her squinting eye. 'Good-a-morning, children!'

'Good morning, Teacher!'

The greeting was like a rattling of swords. Then she would scowl at the floor and begin to growl, 'Ar Farther…'. At which we said the Lord's Prayer, praised all good things, and thanked God for the health of our King. But scarcely had we bellowed the last Amen than Crabby coiled, uncoiled, and sprang, and knocked some poor boy sideways.

One seldom knew why; one was always off guard, for the punishment preceded the charge. The charge, however, followed hard upon it, to a light shower of angry spitting.

'Shuffling your feet! Playing with the desk! A-smirking at that miserable Betty. I will not have it. I'll not, I say. I repeat – I will not have it!'

Many a punch-drunk boy in the playground battle, out-numbered and beaten to his knees, would be heard to cry: 'I will not have it! I'll not, I say! I repeats I will not have it! It was an appeal to the code of our common suffering, and called for immediate mercy.

So we did not much approve of Crabby – though she was responsible for our excellent reflexes. Apart from this, her teaching was not memorable. She appears in my recollection as merely a militant figure, a hunched-up little creature all spring-coils and slaps – not a monster by any means, but a natural manifestation of what we expected of school.

So while the bright times passed, **we sat locked in our stocks**, our bent backs turned

on the valley. The June air infected us with primitive hungers; grass-seed and thistledown idled through the windows. We smelt the fields and were tormented by cuckoos, while every out-of-door sound that came drifting in was a sharp nudge in the solar plexus. The creaking of wagons going past the school, harness-jingle, the cries of the carters, the calling of the cows from the Seventeen Acre, Fletcher's chattering mower, gunshots from the warrens – all tugged and pulled at our active wishes till we could have done Miss B a murder.

Now answer these questions **in full sentences, in your own words.**

1. What is the one thing that Laurie Lee says that he and his classmates successfully learned because of Miss B?

   2 marks

2. Reread the second sentence in Paragraph One (highlighted in the text). Identify three different language techniques that are used here to make Miss B seem frightening, and carefully explain how each one is effective.

   6 marks

3. Explain what Lee means when he describes the morning greeting as 'like a rattling of swords' (Paragraph Four).

   2 marks

4. Explain two things that are humorous in Paragraph Four.

   4 marks

5. Explain clearly why a boy would cry out Crabby's words in the middle of a playground battle.

   3 marks

6. Explain carefully Lee's meaning when he says 'we sat locked in our stocks' in Paragraph 9.

   2 marks

7. Reread the final paragraph of the passage. Identify and clearly explain three different ways in which Lee conveys the deep desires of the children to be outside the classroom.

   6 marks

   25 marks

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

SECTION B:

Answer one of the following questions on a new sheet of paper.

Your essay will be marked for clarity, content, interest and accuracy.

EITHER

1)

You have heard that your school is planning to change the calendar of the year so that there will be four terms, and shortened holidays of the same length between each term. Write a letter to your head teacher in which you put forward your views about these proposed changes.

OR

2)

Do you think, on balance, your experience of education so far has been a positive one?

Write an extended essay explaining what you think and why.

25 marks

Total: 50 marks

END OF EXAMINATION