



# BENENDEN

**Lower School Entrance Exam for 2019**

**ENGLISH**

**14+**

**1 Hour**

**Name:**

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**School:**

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**Date:**

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***Instructions to Candidates:***

- Answer **both** questions, writing your answers in this booklet
- Each is worth 50 marks
- Try to spend roughly the same amount of time on each

Total marks for this paper = 100





## Question 1

Read the following poem and answer the question that follows.

### Solitude

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;  
Weep, and you weep alone;  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,  
But has trouble enough of its own.  
Sing, and the hills will answer;  
Sigh, it is lost on the air;  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you;  
Grieve, and they turn and go;  
They want full measure of all your pleasure,  
But they do not need your woe.  
Be glad, and your friends are many;  
Be sad, and you lose them all,—  
There are none to decline your nectared wine,  
But alone you must drink life's gall\*.

Feast, and your halls are crowded;  
Fast, and the world goes by.  
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,  
But no man can help you die.  
There is room in the halls of pleasure  
For a large and lordly train\*\*,  
But one by one we must all file on  
Through the narrow aisles of pain

*By Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

\*gall – bitter poison

\*\*train – group of people who accompany an important person

**What is Wilcox’s message in ‘Solitude’ and how does she convey it to the reader?**

You might consider:

- What her overall message is
- The choice of language, including imagery (metaphors and similes)
- Your personal response to the poem. How effective do you think the poem is?

Use quotations from the poem to support your ideas.

(50 marks)

## **Question 2**

This is a creative writing assignment.

**Write a short story with the title “Solitude”.**

This can be based on a real experience or it could be entirely imaginary. The essential aim is to describe the experience in as much detail as possible so that your reader can picture the events vividly.

The quality of your written communication will be assessed in Question 2 so remember to focus on things such as paragraphing, spelling and written accuracy in your writing.

(50 marks)



















