

11 + PAST PAPER



FOREST SCHOOL

ENGLISH ENTRANCE/SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

January 2012

Section A: Reading

PASSAGE

10 minutes reading time

Instructions to Candidates

- You have 10 minutes to read the passage.
- You may not start answering the questions during this time.
- You may write notes on the passage if you want to.
- Once the reading time is over, you have 35 minutes to complete the questions in the spaces provided.

Section A: Reading

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions below. This story is about a young girl, called Mattie, who likes to find out the meanings of new words. She also likes books but is confused about some of the ideas she has come across in her reading.

It was seven o'clock on a May evening. It was after the supper was cooked and served, the dishes washed, the pots scrubbed, dried, and put away, the stove wiped down, the floor mopped, the dishrags put to soaking, and Barney fed. Lou and Beth were polishing their boots. Abby was sitting in front of the fire with a heap of darning. Pa was sitting across from her, mending Pleasant's bridle. And me? I was standing in the middle of the kitchen, looking at my family, each one of them close enough to touch, my heart pounding so hard I thought it would burst.

There were more chores to do, but I felt as if the very walls themselves were pressing in upon me. As if I would go crazy if I stayed in this prison of a kitchen for one second longer. I leaned against the sink and closed my eyes. I must have sighed or groaned or something, because Abby suddenly said, "What's wrong, Mattie?"

I opened my eyes again and saw her looking up at me. Lou and Beth looked up, too. Even Pa did. *Dehiscence* was my word of the day. It is a fine word, a five-dollar word. It means when pods or fruits burst open so that their seeds can come out. How was it that I could learn a new word every day, yet never know the right one to tell my family how I felt?

"Nothing's wrong. I'm fine. Just tired, that's all. I ... I think I forgot to latch the barn door," I lied, then ran to the shed, grabbed my shawl, and kept going. Out into the yard, past the garden and the outhouse, past the black earth of the cornfields.

I kept going until I got to the eastern edge of Pa's land, where the fields give way to woods and there's a stream, and just past it, a small clearing.

I could hardly breathe by the time I got there. I walked around and around, trying to get hold of myself. My head felt giddy and light, like the time Minnie and I filched brandy from her father's cupboard. Only this time it wasn't alcohol I'd had too much of. It was books. I should have stopped after Zola and Hardy, but I hadn't. I'd gone right on like a greedy pig to *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman, *Songs of Innocence* by William Blake, and *A Distant Music* by Emily Baxter.

Emily Baxter's poems made my head hurt. They made me think of so many

questions and possibilities. Reading one was like pulling a stump of a plant. You got hold of a root and tugged, hoping it would come right up, but sometimes it went so deep and so far, you were halfway to the centre of the earth and still pulling. 40

I took a deep breath. I smelled wet earth and ever-greens and the dusk coming down, and they calmed me some. I was agitated something fierce. There was a whole other world beyond Eagle Bay, with people like Emily Baxter in it thinking all the things you thought but weren't supposed to. Writing them, too. And when I read what they'd wrote, I wanted to be in that world. Even if it meant I had to leave this one. And my sisters. And my friends. And Jack. 45



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Section A: Reading

ANSWER BOOKLET

35 minutes

Name	
Candidate number	

Instructions to Candidates

- Write your name and candidate number clearly on the front of this booklet.
- Once the reading time is over, you have **35 minutes** to complete the questions in the spaces provided.
- You should answer all the questions in this section.

Mark out of 30: ____

Marker: ____

Questions 1-10 refer to specific parts of the passage.

1. Re-read the first paragraph (lines 1-7). Write down two jobs that have already been done in the house that evening. (2 marks)

(1)

(2)

1. ____

2. Write down the first thing in the passage which tells you that she is very troubled about something. (1 mark)

2. ____

3. What is life like in Mattie's household? How do you think she feels about it? (3 marks)

3. ____

4. In lines 10-11 Mattie says, "I would go crazy if I stayed in this prison of a kitchen for one second longer". What does the word "prison" tell you about Mattie's feelings about her life? (1 mark)

4. ___

5. The passage you have read is called "Dehiscence". What does the word "dehiscence" mean? You may use a quotation from the passage. (1 mark)

5. ___

6. In lines 16-17 Mattie describes dehiscence as a "five dollar-word". What do you think she means? (2 marks)

6. ___

7. Why do you think Mattie lies to Abby in lines 21-24? You may give more than one reason. (3 marks)

7. ___

8. Re-read **paragraph 6 (lines 29-35)**. What does Mattie compare reading books to? (1 mark)

8. ____

9. In **paragraph 7 (lines 37-41)**, Mattie says reading one of Emily Baxter's poems was "like pulling a stump of a plant. You got hold of a root and tugged, hoping it would come right up, but sometimes it went so deep and so far, you were halfway to the centre of the earth and still pulling." What do you think she means? (3 marks)

9. ____

10. In line 48 Mattie says, "And my sisters. And my friends. And Jack." Why do you think the writer breaks this section down into several shorter sentences all starting with 'And'? (3 marks)

10. ___

Questions 11-16 refer to the whole passage.

11. What is the name of the place where Mattie lives? (1 mark)

11. ___

12. What does the word "filched" in line 31 mean? Tick one answer (1 mark)

- drank
- stole
- fetches

12. ___

13. The passage is set in two places: in the family's kitchen and in a "small clearing". Why do you think the writer chose to set the passage in these two different places? (2 marks)

13. ____

14. How has reading Emily Baxter's poems affected Mattie? (3 marks)

14. ____

15. Why do you think the writer of this passage chose to call this passage 'Dehiscence'? (3 marks)

15. ____

End of Questions



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Section B: Writing

30 minutes

Name	
Candidate number	

Instructions to Candidates

- Write your name and candidate number clearly on the front of this booklet.
- Choose **ONE** question and write your response in the space provided.
- You have **30 minutes** for this section.

Mark out of 30: _____

Marker: _____

Section B – Writing
Marks Available: 30

To do well in this section:

- Use your imagination;
- Organise your work carefully and remember to use paragraphs;
- Write in clear sentences and remember to use correct punctuation;
- Use interesting words and try to spell them correctly.

You must answer the question set. You should not write out an answer from memory. Answers which are written from memory often do not get very high marks.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Either

1. Write about a book that you have read that has affected you.
 - Explain *why* you enjoyed the book and *how* it affected you.
 - DO NOT JUST re-tell the story of the book.

OR

2. Write a story about someone who has to make an important and difficult decision.
