

**ADVANCED GCE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

Experience into Words

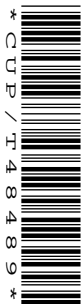
**READING BOOKLET**

**MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2008**

**2719/RB**

Afternoon

Time: 2 hours 15 minutes



- **The first fifteen minutes of the examination are for reading the passages in this reading booklet.**
- During this time you may make any annotations you choose on the passages themselves.
- The questions for this examination are given on a separate sheet.
- **You must not turn over the question sheet, or write anything in your answer booklet, until instructed to do so.**
- The Invigilator will tell you when the fifteen minutes begin and end.
- You will then be allowed to open the question paper.
- You will have **two hours** to work on the tasks.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

**Passage A**

The poem below was written by the American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay in the early twentieth century. In it she looks back on love-affairs she has had and expresses a sense of loss and an absence of passion in her life.

What lips my lips have kissed, and where, and why,  
I have forgotten, and what arms have lain  
Under my head till morning; but the rain  
Is full of ghosts tonight, that tap and sigh  
Upon the glass and listen for reply, 5  
And in my heart there stirs a quiet pain  
For unremembered lads that not again  
Will turn to me at midnight with a cry.  
Thus in winter stands the lonely tree,  
Nor knows what birds have vanished one by one, 10  
Yet knows its boughs more silent than before:  
I cannot say what loves have come and gone,  
I only know that summer sang in me  
A little while, that in me sings no more.

### Passage B

The passage below is a transcription from an interview (2006). In it the speaker, who has been protesting against the logging of timber in the area by living in a tree for some time, describes his passion and motivation for his cause.

The following key can be used as a guide:

- (.) – micro pause  
 \_\_\_\_\_ – stressed word or phrase

theres er (.) a problem with ice n snow (.) up here (.) ya know (.) cos (.) er (.) it  
 freezes during winter (.) but im prepared to stay for the winter (.) if needs be (.) for  
 a cause (.) im diggin in (.) im both (.) mentally n (.) er physically preparin (.) n (.)  
 sure (.) very dangerous for me (.) suppose (.) theres (.) er probably a few (.) er (.)  
hundred tons (.) of wood heading my way (.) if they (.) they (.) fell a tree in the (.) 5  
 er wrong direction (.) and when they (.) set off explosions (.) if its too close (.) the  
shrapnel (.) goes (.) goes (.) a few hundred metres (.) so i (.) i (.) i just hope they  
 dont (.) ya know (.) get too close with their antics (.) ya know (.) n yeh (.) yeh (.) im  
 er (.) sure (.) of course (.) theres poss (.) possibilities (.) of danger (.) like (.) er (.)  
 the workers are one thing (.) n (.) yeh (.) im expecting snow n ice (.) getting people 10  
 to try n (.) shoot me (.) shoot out my anchors (.) from the tree sit (.) n (.) theres been  
explosions (.) theres all kinds of dangers (.) here (.) and (.) it gets a bit scary (.) ya  
 know (.) but (.) theres all kinds of things you have to factor in to (.) to (.) what youre  
 doin (.) ya know (.) but (.) im here for the long (.) haul (.) n theyre goin t (.) have t  
move me (.) by force (.) cos im not going anywhere (.) im here to stay (.) for as long 15  
 as i need to (.) cos its worth it (.) its really worth it (.) in the end (.) we (.) we (.) cant  
 let them keep taking the trees (.) theyve got to let them just be (.) its killin nature (.)  
 ya know (.) we cant (.) keep losin them (.) no more

### Passage C

The passage below comes from a local newspaper (2006). It describes how a photographer has developed a passion for importing and growing tropical trees in an unlikely area.

Global warming means two things for Stephen Huntley. His firm, Tropical Landscapes UK, has been set up on the basis that Essex is getting hotter all the time – hot enough to give the plants of the jungle and desert a sporting chance of survival in local soil.

In his other life, as an action photographer, Steve has also felt the heat. 5

Steve has a huge portfolio, but there is one picture that he always turns to when he talks about his work.

It shows a pantiled, Mediterranean-style building, photographed by Steve in the late dusk. The light from the house shines out of the window, illuminating a tropical garden. You can almost hear the chatter of the cicadas and feel the still heat. 10

Steve says: "I always ask people where they think the location is. There's been quite a range of answers. Dubai, the South of France, Crete. Nobody's managed to guess it right yet."

The answer, in fact, is that it is Steve's own home in south Essex.

This is where Steve pursues his other passion, for tropical trees. "It started as a hobby, when I first got married and settled down," he says. "Now it's becoming something more." 15

In almost every respect, Steve's garden is a conventional family space, a play area for Steve's kids and a place to relax out of doors on a summer evening. Only the vegetation is exceptional, standing out from the more conventional oaks and willows on the executive estate where Steve lives. 20

Those who do find their way there come across a mini outdoor version of the Kew Gardens palm house, where Steve steadily experiments with different species, monitoring their performance in the Essex climate.

This is a labour of love, as well as a way of getting away from the sometimes harrowing scenes that Steve photographs in his working life. 25

He plans to claw some cash back by hiring the palms out to TV and movie sets. "A few palm trees can really transform the look of a location," he says. "For instance, the Vietnam scenes in *Full Metal Jacket* were actually filmed in Essex, on the Thames marshes. All it took was a few well placed bits of tropical vegetation. But you have to know what you're doing, or the trees will die." 30

Stephen is also hopeful he can make a few sales to some of the celebrities he encounters while filming.

"Palm trees are becoming very fashionable with people who've got money to spend," he says. "A palm tree is a good gift for the man who has everything. They go to a party in a Maserati and they see that everyone else at the party has also got a Maserati. But not everyone has got a £10,000 palm tree. What they particularly like is to surround their swimming pools with them." 35

Tropical trees in non-tropical places are a luxury item for now. Steve believes, though, that things will change as the climate warms up. The notion of a palm-fringed Essex will become less bizarre. Tropical trees and bushes will develop from a luxury item to a standard garden centre product alongside the busy lizzies and pansies. 40

By the time that happens, Steve should be one of the best-informed people in the business. He is building up a databank of knowhow, steadily acquired as he tends the mini-jungle in his own garden. "For now I'm a cameraman who runs a tropical tree business on the side, but who knows where this will lead," he says. 45

He seems to have been born with monkey digits, or whatever the jungle equivalent is to green fingers. In his garden are some items that make the date palms look positively conventional. Picking his way through the foliage, he suddenly cups his hand round a cluster of plump little fruits. On closer inspection, they turn out 50

to be bananas. "There may be other people who have managed bananas outdoors in Essex, but I haven't heard about it," Steve says.

Even more surprising to anyone in the know is the sight of an Australian King Palm. "They are just not supposed to survive in the UK," Steve says. This one is so thriving it's almost saying "g'day."

Steve is a commercial importer, but he is also a man who loves tropical trees, and he wants to do right by them.

Extract from The king of palms brings tropics to Essex, South Essex Echo, 08 August 2006





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