

150/05

ENGLISH
HIGHER TIER
PAPER 1

A.M. WEDNESDAY, 8 June 2005

(2 Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **two** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 55 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 25 minutes

Q. B2 – about 40 minutes

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks.

Section B (Writing): 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 marks

*Read carefully the story below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.*

Robert Quick, coming home after a business trip, found a note from his wife. She would be back at four, but the children were in the garden. He had missed his two small girls and looked forward eagerly to their greeting. Still in his suit, he made at once for the garden.

5 The garden was a wilderness. The original excuse for this neglect was that the garden was for the children. They could do what they liked there. The original truth was that neither of the Quicks cared much for gardening.

Besides, they were too busy to give time to a hobby that bored them both. But the excuse had become true. The garden belonged to the children and Quick was even proud of it. He would boast of his wild garden, so different from his neighbours' shaved grass and combed flowerbeds. 10 It had come to seem, for him, a triumph of the imagination; and this afternoon, once more, he found it charming in its wildness, an original masterpiece among gardens. It had the special beauty of untouched woods where there is still a piece of nature left, a suggestion of the frontier, of primeval forests.

'A bit of wild country,' thought Quick. And he felt released.

15 He caught sight of Jenny, lying on her stomach with a book under her nose. Jenny was twelve and had lately taken furiously to reading. He waved and called, "Hello, Jenny, hello". But Jenny merely turned her head slightly then dropped her cheek on her book as if to say, 'It's really too hot.'

20 And then he saw Kate, a year older. She was sitting on the swing, head down, apparently deep in thought. To her father's "Hello," she answered only in a muffled voice, "Hello, Daddy."

He said no more and did not go near. He never asked for affection from his girls. He despised fathers who encouraged their children to displays of love. It would have been especially wrong, he thought, with these two. They were naturally impulsive and affectionate and had moods of passionate devotion. They were growing up and would be exciting women, strong in their 25 emotions, intelligent and reflective.

"Well, Jenny, what are you reading?" But she answered only with a wriggle of her behind. Quick was amused by his own disappointment. He said to himself, 'Children have no manners but at least they are honest - they never pretend.' He fetched himself a chair and the morning paper. He would make the best of things. The mere presence of the children was a pleasure. He was 30 home. Jenny had got up and wandered away among the trees and now Kate jumped off the swing and lay on the grass. Her dog, Snort, came over, barking and tugging at her dress. She kicked at the dog and said, "Go away." Jenny stopped in her leisurely stroll, snatched a stick and hurled it at Snort like a spear. The dog, startled, uttered a loud, uncertain bark and approached her. She was not sure if this was a new game, or if she had committed some serious crime. Jenny yelled and 35 rushed at her. The dog fled. At once Kate jumped up and the girls dashed after Snort, laughing and snatching anything they could find to throw at the fugitive. Snort dodged to and fro, barked hysterically, wagged her tail in desperate submission and finally crept whining between the shed and the wall.

40 Robert was shocked. Jenny had got hold of a rake and was trying to hook the dog by the collar. He called urgently, "Jenny, don't do that. Kate, she's frightened." He began to struggle out of his chair but suddenly Kate turned around, aimed a stick at him and shouted at the top of her voice, "Yield, Paleface." Jenny cried, "Yes, yes - Paleface yield." She burst into a shout of laughter and rushed at the man with the rake carried like a lance.

45 The two girls, staggering with laughter, threw themselves upon their father. "Paleface Robert. Kill him. Scalp him." They tore at the man and suddenly he was frightened. It seemed to him that the children had gone completely mad, vindictive. They were hurting him and he did not know how to defend himself without hurting them. Snort, suddenly recovering confidence, rushed from her cover and seized this new victim by the sleeve. He shouted, "Call her off, Kate." But they battered at him. Kate was jumping on his stomach. Jenny had seized him by the collar as if to 50 strangle him. Her face was that of a homicidal maniac; her eyes wide and glaring, her lips curled back to show her teeth. And he really was being strangled. He made a violent effort to throw the child off then suddenly the chair gave way and all three fell with a crash. Snort, startled and perhaps alarmed, snapped at his face.

Jenny's expression changed. She cried, "Oh, she's bitten you." Kate was still struggling with laughter but Jenny reproached her sister. "It's not a joke. It might be poisoned."

"I know." Kate was indignant but burst out again into helpless giggles.

Robert picked himself up. He avoided looking at the girls in case they should see his anger and surprise. He was deeply shocked. He could not forget Jenny's face. He thought, 'It was as if she wanted to hurt. It was as if they hated me.' It seemed that something new had broken into his relationship with his daughters; that they had suddenly gone into a brutal, primitive world of their own in which he had no place.

Kate had disappeared. Jenny was gazing at his face. When he turned away, she caught his arm and said, "We've got to wash your bite."

"That's all right, Jenny. It doesn't matter."

"But Kate is getting the water."

And now, Kate, coming from the kitchen with a bowl of water, called out indignantly, "Sit down, Daddy. How dare you get up." She was playing the stern nurse and Robert had to submit to this new game. At least this was more like a game. It was not murderous. The girls made him sit down, washed the cut and stuck a plaster on it.

Mrs Quick arrived in the middle of this ceremony and was much amused by the scene, and their account of the afternoon. Her face said plainly to Robert, 'All you children - amusing yourselves.'

At tea the girls handed round cake and sandwiches with reserved, demure expressions. They were enjoying the dignity of their own performance. Their eyes passed over their father as if he did not exist.

Robert said to himself, 'What did I expect? In a year or two I won't count at all. Young men will come prowling and I'll only be useful to pay the bills.'

After tea he stole away into the garden. Suddenly, he heard running steps. It was Jenny.

"What is it now, Jenny?"

"I wanted to look - at the cut. Put me up on the wall."

He lifted her onto the garden wall. Having reached this superior position, she poked the plaster.

"I just wanted to make sure it was sticking."

She looked down on him with an expression he did not recognise. What was the game? Was she going to laugh? But the child frowned as if she was also struck by something new and unexpected. Then she tossed back her hair, jumped down and ran off.

Robert thought, 'No, not quite a game. Not for a second. She's growing up - and so am I.'

Joyce Cary

A1. Look at lines 1-25.

What do you learn about the relationship between Robert Quick and his children in these lines?

[10]

A2. Look at lines 26-56.

We are not certain if what happens in these lines is a game or not. How does the writer create this sense of uncertainty?

[10]

Think about:

- what the girls do;
- what they say;
- how their father reacts.

A3. Look at lines 57-85.

What are Robert's thoughts and feelings about his children in these lines?

[10]

A4. To answer this question you will need to consider the whole passage.

How does the writer create a sinister and frightening atmosphere in this story?

[10]

You should consider:

- the way the setting is described;
- the writer's choice of language;
- the structure of the story.

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.

Take special care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

A guide to the amount you should write is given for each question.

B1. Describe the scene as children leave an infant or nursery school at the end of the day. [20]

You should write about a page in your answer book.

Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively.

B2. Choose **one** of the following titles for your writing. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about two pages in your answer book.

Either, (a) The Gift.

Or, (b) Write about a time you had to look after a neighbour's pet.

Or, (c) Write a story which begins with these words:

Sam knew there was trouble coming as soon as Mrs Thomas closed the door.

Or, (d) A Night Out.

Or, (e) Write a story which ends with the following:

My mother just looked at me and said, "I told you it would never work." I realise now that she was absolutely right.