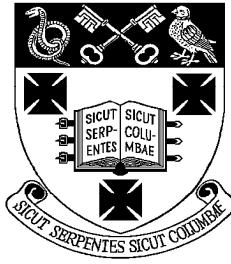


RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships



ENGLISH II

Wednesday 3rd March 2004

Time allowed - one and a half hours

*The paper consists of two questions each worth 50 marks.
You should spend 45 minutes on each question.
Concise, clear well-written answers will gain the highest marks.*

1) Read the following poems very carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

a) **Blackberry Eating**

I love to go out in late September
among the fat, overripe, icy, black blackberries
to eat blackberries for breakfast,
the stalks very prickly, a penalty
they earn for knowing the black art
of blackberry-making; as I stand among them
lifting the stalks to my mouth, the ripest berries
fall almost unbidden to my tongue,
as words sometimes do, certain peculiar words
like *strengths* or *squinched*,
many-lettered, one-syllabled lumps,
which I squeeze, squinch open, and splurge well
in the silent, startled, icy, black language
of blackberry-eating in late September.

Galway Kinnell (b. 1927)

b) **The Tree of Scarlet Berries**

The rain gullies the garden paths
And tinkles on the broad sides of grass blades.
A tree, at the end of my arm, is hazy with mist.
Even so, I can see that it has red berries,
A scarlet fruit,
Filmed over with moisture.
It seems as though the rain,
Dripping from it,
Should be tinged with colour.
I desire the berries,
But, in the mist, I only scratch my hand on the thorns.
Probably, too, they are bitter.

Amy Lowell (1874-1925)

Questions on poem a)

Explain as precisely as you can what you think the poet means by:

- i) “the black art of blackberry-making”
- ii) “many-lettered, one-syllabled lumps”
- iii) “which I squeeze, squinch open, and splurge”

Summarise in a paragraph what impression of blackberries and of eating them is conveyed in “Blackberry Eating”.

Questions on poem b)

Explain as precisely as you can what you think the poet means by:

- i) “The rain gullies the garden path
And tinkles on the broad side of the grass blades”
- ii) “A tree, at the end of my arm, is hazy with mist”
- iii) “Filmed over with moisture”

Summarise in a paragraph what the poet thinks about the scarlet berries.

2) Write a description of your favourite fruit and/or the experience of eating it. You may if you wish write a poem.