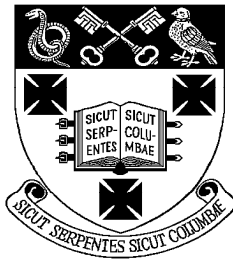


RADLEY COLLEGE
Entrance Scholarships



ENGLISH II

Wednesday 9th March 2005

Time allowed - 90 minutes

The paper consists of two questions each worth 40 marks.

*You should spend at least **15 minutes** reading, thinking and making notes before writing.*

Remember you will be rewarded for the accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as the quality of your ideas. You should illustrate your arguments with quotations taken from the text.

*Concise, clear **well-written** answers will gain the highest marks.*

Section A: *Read the poem and answer the questions below.*

“The Choosing” by Liz Lochhead

We were first equal, Mary and I
with same coloured ribbons in mouse-coloured hair
and with equal shyness,
we curtsyed to the lady councillor
for copies of Collins’ Children’s Classics.
First equal, equally proud.

Best friends too Mary and I
a common bond in being cleverest (equal)
in our small school’s small class.
I remember the competition for top desk
at school service.
And my terrible fear
of her superiority at sums.

I remember the housing scheme
where we both stayed.
The same houses, different homes,
where the choices were made.

I don’t know exactly why they moved,
but anyway they went.
Something about a three-apartment
and a cheaper rent.
But from the top deck of the high-school bus
I’d glimpse among the others on the corner
Mary’s father, muffled, contrasting strangely
with the elegant greyhounds by his side.
He didn’t believe in high school education,
especially for girls,
or in forking out for uniforms.

Ten years later on a Saturday –
I am coming from the library –
sitting near me on the bus,
Mary
with a husband who is tall,
curly-haired, has eyes
for no one else but Mary.
Her arms are round the full-shaped vase
that is her body.

Oh, you can see where the attraction lies
in Mary's life –
not that I envy her, really.

And I am coming from the library
with my arms full of books.
I think of those prizes that were ours for the taking
and wonder when the choices got made
we don't remember making.

1. Re-read the first two stanzas.
How does Lochhead characterize the relationship between the two girls? (6 marks)
2. Re-read the second stanza.
What does the line, 'The same houses, different homes' mean and how does this idea relate to the subject of the poem? (4 marks)
3. What impression do you get of Mary's father? (4 marks)
4. Look carefully at the fifth stanza.
How does the speaker convey her feelings about Mary here? (5 marks)
5. Comment on the poet's use of
 - a) rhyme
 - a) pronouns
 - b) repetition (9 marks)
6. Identify, and comment on the effect of, the verb tenses used by the poet in 'The Choosing'. (2 marks)
7. Write a paragraph in which you give a personal response to the poem.
Remember to refer directly to the text as you answer. (10 marks)

Section B

Write about a difficult decision that you have had to make. How did you make your choice and what were the consequences?