

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

SECTION A: Reading

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Laura Ingalls Wilder writes about leaving her old home with her family and travelling across the United States to a new home.

Leaving the Big Woods



5 A long time ago, when all the grandfathers and grandmothers of today were little boys and little girls or very small babies, or perhaps not even born, Pa and Ma and Mary and Laura and Baby Carrie left their little house in the Big Woods. They drove away and left it lonely and empty in the clearing among the big pine trees, and they never saw that little house again.

10 Pa said there were too many people in the Big Woods now. Quite often Laura heard the ringing thud of an axe which was not Pa's axe, or the echo of a shot that did not come from his gun. The path that went by the little house had become a road. Almost every day Laura and Mary stopped their playing and stared in surprise at a wagon slowly creaking by on that road.

Wild animals would not stay in a place where there were so many people. Pa did not like to stay, either. He liked a place where the wild animals lived without being afraid. He liked to see the little fawns and their mothers looking at him from the shadowy woods, and the fat, lazy bears eating berries in the wild-berry patch.

15 In the long winter evenings he talked to Ma about the West. In the West the grass grew thick and high. There the wild animals wandered and fed as though they were in a pasture that stretched much farther than a man could see, and there were no settlers.

20 One day in the very last of the winter Pa said to Ma, "Seeing you don't object, I've decided to go see the West. I've had an offer for this place and we can sell it now to give us a new start."



“Oh, Charles, must we go now?” Ma said. The weather was so cold and the snug house was so comfortable.

“If we are going this year, we must go now,” said Pa. “We can’t get across the river after the ice breaks.”

25 So Pa sold the little house. He sold the cow and the calf.

In the thin dark morning Ma gently shook Mary and Laura till they got up. In firelight and candlelight she washed and combed them and dressed them warmly. Over their long red flannel underwear she put wool petticoats and wool dresses and long wool stockings. She put their coats on them, and their rabbit-skin hoods and their red yarn
30 mittens.

Everything from the little house was in the wagon, except the beds and tables and chairs. They did not need to take these, because Pa could always make new ones.

There was thin snow on the ground. The air was still and cold and dark. The bare trees stood up against the frosty stars. But in the east the sky was pale and through the
35 grey woods came lanterns with wagons and horses, bringing Grandpa and Grandma and aunts and uncles and cousins.

Mary and Louisa clung tight to their rag dolls and did not say anything. The cousins stood around and looked at them. Grandma and all the aunts hugged and kissed them and hugged and kissed them again, saying goodbye.

40 Pa hung his gun in the wagon, where he could reach it quickly from the seat. He hung his bullet pouch beneath it. He laid the fiddle¹ carefully between pillows, where jolting would not hurt the fiddle.

The uncles helped him hitch the horses to the wagon. All the cousins were told to kiss Mary and Laura, so they did. Pa picked up Mary and then Laura, and set them
45 on the bed in the back of the wagon. He helped Ma climb up to the wagon seat, and Grandma reached up and gave her Baby Carrie. Pa swung up and sat beside Ma, and Jack the dog went under the wagon.

So they all went away from the little log house. The shutters were over the windows, so the little house could not see them go. It stayed there inside the log fence, behind
50 the two big oak trees that in the summertime had made green roofs for Mary and Laura to play under. And that was the last of the little house.

¹ fiddle; another word for a violin



**You should refer closely to the passage to support your answers.
You may include brief quotations.**

1. What made Laura and Mary stare in surprise?

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Q1

(Total 1 mark)

2. Look again at lines 6 to 10.
Give **three** things to suggest that there are too many people living in the wood.

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Q2

(Total 3 marks)

3. How do we know that the journey may be dangerous?

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Q3

(Total 2 marks)



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4. Look again at lines 22 to 37.
Give **three** things from the passage that show it is wintertime.

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(Total 3 marks)

Q4

5. In your own words, explain what we learn about the family and its relationships in this passage.

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(Total 5 marks)

Q5



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6. How does the writer create a calm atmosphere and try to keep the reader interested in the story?

You may include **brief** quotations from the passage to support your answer.

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Q6

(Total 6 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A: 20 MARKS



SECTION B: Reading and Writing

You should spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Remind yourself of the passage *Shopping for Romanian babies* from the London Examinations Anthology, and then answer questions 7 and 8.

Shopping for Romanian babies

5 There are few more depressing assignments for a journalist than the Eastern European “orphanage beat”. In Russia, you can find thousands of children who have been forcibly removed from parents deemed to be inadequate, through alcoholism, drug abuse or political inclination. The accepted belief is that the State is the best possible parent. In Romania you can find as many children who have been dumped in state institutions by parents who simply cannot afford to feed them.

10 I walked into a “Cassia dei Copii”, a “house of children”, in northern Romania. The smell of urine, the cold and dim lighting are familiar. A sea of expectant young faces looks up at me. Within seconds, two small fists are thrust into my hands. Others dig under their mattresses for childish drawings – no one has a locker in which to keep personal belongings – which are then frantically held up to me for approval.

15 The children are desperate to give these offerings to someone. Anyone. They call out, “What is your name? What is your name?” I am too choked to answer. Give me a war zone any day, but spare me the emotional trauma of 100 children searching for a mother. It takes some time to locate any adult carer, hardly surprising since there are only three on duty for the 100 or so children.

20 I ask whether it is true that, in some orphanages, only 1% are what we would describe as genuine orphans; the rest have been left for economic reasons. “I don’t know,” the director says, looking around at all the children apparently without identities. “The papers have been lost. But most of them haven’t been visited for six months,” she adds helpfully, which means that under Romanian law they are now the official property of the state.

25 And this is not a trip down memory lane to those pictures of half-starved neglected children, the babies rocking in their cots, when journalists were first allowed access to Romania after the revolution 10 years ago. Then we found 150,000 children abandoned to the state. Since then the situation has improved slightly – there are now 140,000.

‘Vested interest’

30 In the thankfully clean-smelling, warm offices of the European Union in the capital Bucharest, the head of Mission holds his head in his hands.

35 Last year, the discovery of thousands of malnourished children, in an investigation sponsored by Brussels, prompted an emergency-feeding programme. But attempts to persuade the authorities to do something fundamental, he says, meet with a blank wall of vested interest. “Thousands of jobs are involved in running these state institutions,” he explains. “We are dealing with an industry of children.”



H 3 1 4 2 2 A 0 7 1 6

Posing as a wealthy, would-be parent of a Romanian orphan, I discover that if you are prepared to pay, then you can shop for a baby, as I did in a town some three hours drive north of Bucharest.

40 Local gossip says the orphanage director is making a fortune from the trade. She has powerful friends and the police are not allowed to investigate.

45 She shows me 60 babies she has in her baby shop that week. They all look clean but are still prone to the rocking motion of babies suffering from neglect. She gives me three to choose from – Andrei, Nico, or Liviu. The impoverished parents of these babies will readily give their permission. “I can forge their signatures if necessary,” she says.

The sum of \$20,000 is mentioned, and she says she can get the baby delivered, all papers intact (her daughter is a lawyer) to my home in north London.

Baby trade

50 In the surrounding villages, I find the network which feeds the trade. Wherever I stop, villagers come up to me asking, “Are you here to buy a baby?” I am told of one couple who lost two of their children to the orphanage down the road.

“We took them there for the winter,” explains the father, “because we couldn’t afford to feed them. And when we came to collect them, we were told they had gone.”

55 The tears roll down his cheeks. The four-year-old boy who remains at home is holding on tightly to his father as he speaks, with some anxiety.

I then went to meet a woman who produces for the baby shop.

“I have given six children to the orphanage and kept two,” she says. “I don’t mean to keep this latest one.”

She places a nine-month-old baby on my lap.

60 “You can have him if you like,” she says.

“For \$11,000,” the father adds quickly.

I hand back the seventh baby I have been offered in as many days in Romania, make my excuses and leave.

(Source: Sue Lloyd Roberts, www.bbc.co.uk)



You must answer both questions, 7 and 8.

7. How does the writer try to make us share her strong feelings in this passage?

In your answer you should write about:

- her feelings when she visits the orphanage
- her reactions to the people that she meets in the villages
- the language that the writer uses.

You should refer closely to the passage to support your answer. You may include **brief** quotations.

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(Question 7 continued)

Dotted lines for writing.

(Total 10 marks for Reading)

Q7



8. Imagine that your local newspaper is leading a campaign to improve the quality of care in orphanages.

Write a letter to the newspaper giving your views on the sort of care that children ought to have in orphanages.

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(Question 8 continued)

Dotted lines for writing.

(Total 10 marks for Writing)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B: 20 MARKS

Q8

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(Question 9 continued)

Dotted lines for writing



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(Question 9 continued)

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(Question 9 continued)

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Q9

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(Total 20 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION C: 20 MARKS

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 60 MARKS

END

Edexcel Limited gratefully acknowledges the following sources used in the preparation of this paper:

Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*, Methuen, 1979
Sue Lloyd Roberts, *Shopping for Romanian babies*, www.bbc.co.uk

