## The Old Tree in the Valley

Next to my house lies an old, deep valley. The people of my village say that there was some sort of miracle that happened down there, but every time I asked my parents what happened they say, "You are too young to know."

Anyway, one fine summer's day, my parents were out, so I decided to sneak out of the house into the dark valley to see if I can find my clues that may guide me to the reason why my parents wouldn't tell me what happened.

While I was searching in the valley, I noticed a big, old oak tree which was, strangely enough, full of notches and cuts. I decided to cut a small piece off it. Maybe it might be a clue? I started to walk on when I heard something move, I spun around to see the tree looking back at me with a wide grin on his face. I ran away as fast as I could in horror when I heard a deep booming voice say, "Hold your horses.

Don't be alarmed, haven't you ever seen a tree before?"

Suddenly, the tree grabbed me with a long wooden hand. As I tried to calm down, I decided to ask the tree about the so called

miracle. He said to me, "Ah, close your eyes and don't open them till I say." I did as I was told until I heard the order to open my eyes, and when I did, I saw something I would never forget!

A thousand Turks lined up in formations charging while shouting their battle cries, and ten knights, clad in grey armour, wielding swords and shields while preparing themselves for what they thought was going to be a massacre in the Turks' favour.

When the Turks engaged the knights, a bright light appeared.

Angels wielding big swords came out from the clouds and helped the Knights vanquish their foe.

"Gavin, Gavin," I heard a voice calling my name. "Gavin, wake up." I opened my eyes to see my mother next to me in a hospital ward. "I told you not to go into the valley."

I answered her with these words, "Mummy, I think I know what happened in the valley a long time ago."

(Composition taken from a past ENGLISH Junior Lyceum Entrance Examination Paper into Form 1.)