

0860/401

NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2011

FRIDAY, 6 MAY
10.35 AM – 11.25 AM

ENGLISH
STANDARD GRADE
Foundation Level
Reading
Text

Read carefully the passage overleaf. It will help if you read it twice. When you have done so, answer the questions. Use the spaces provided in the Question/Answer booklet.



In this extract from a novel, a young girl named Lucy has a strange experience.

- 1 School was over and the Easter holidays had begun. Lucy was walking home, between the reed banks, along the marsh road, when it started to happen. She had just come to the small bridge, where the road goes over the deep water. She called this Otterfeast Bridge, because once she had seen an otter on the edge of it, over the black water, eating an eel. That had been three years before. But she still felt excitement whenever she came to this part of the road, and she always looked ahead eagerly, towards the bridge.
- 2 Today, as usual, the bridge was empty. As she crossed over it, she looked between the rails, into the black water. She always did this, just in case there might be an otter down there, in the water, looking up at her, or maybe swimming beneath at that very moment.
- 3 And today, there was something. But what was it, down there in the water? She leaned over the rail and peered.
- 4 Something deep in the dark water, something white, kept twisting. A fish?
- 5 Suddenly she knew. It was an eel—behaving in the strangest way. At first, she thought it must be two eels, fighting. But no, it was just one eel. It knotted itself and unknotted. Then it swam quickly round in circles, corkscrewing over and over as it went. At one point, its tail flipped right out of the water. Then it was writhing down into the mud, setting a grey cloud drifting. Then it was up at the surface again, bobbing its head into the air. She saw its beaky face, then its little mouth opening. She saw the pale inside of its mouth.
- 6 Then it was writhing and tumbling in a knot. Quite a small eel, only a foot long.
- 7 As it danced its squirming, circling, darting dance, it was drifting along in the current of the water. Soon she lost sight of it under the water shine. Then, twenty yards downstream, she saw its head bob up again. Then a swirl and it vanished. Then up again, bob, bob, bob.
- 8 What was wrong with it? Seeing its peculiar head bobbing up like that, and its little mouth opening, she had felt a painful twist somewhere in her middle. She had wanted to scoop the eel up and help it. It needed help. Something was wrong with it.
- 9 At that moment, staring along the dimpled shine of the water where it curved away among the tall reeds, she felt something else.
- 10 At first, she had no idea what made her head go dizzy and her feet stagger. She gripped the bridge rail and braced her feet apart. She thought she had felt the rail itself give her hand a jolt.
- 11 What was it?
- 12 “Garronk! Garronk! Garraaaaaark!”
- 13 The floppy, untidy shape of a heron was scrambling straight up out of the reed beds. It did not flap away in stately slow motion, like an ordinary heron. It flailed and hoisted itself up, exactly as if it were bounding up an invisible spiral stair. Then, from a great height, it tumbled away towards the sea beyond the marsh. Something had scared it badly. But what? Something in the marsh had frightened it. And seeing the heron so frightened frightened Lucy.
- 14 The marsh was always a lonely place. Now she felt the loneliness. As she stood there, looking up, the whole bluish and pinky sky of soft cloud moved slowly. She looked again along the water, where the reeds leaned all one way, bowing gently in the light wind. The eel was no longer to be seen. Was it still writhing and bobbing its head up, as the slow flow carried it away through the marsh? She looked down into the water, under the bridge. The black water moved silently, crumpling and twirling little whorls of light.

- 15 Then it came again. Beneath her feet the bridge road jumped and the rail jarred her hand. At the same moment, the surface of the water was blurred by a sudden mesh of tiny ripples all over it.
- 16 An earthquake! It must be an earthquake.
- 17 A completely new kind of fear gripped Lucy. For a few seconds she did not dare to move. The thought of the bridge collapsing and dropping her into the water with its writhing eels was bad enough. But the thought of the marsh itself opening a great crack, and herself and all the water and mud and eels and reeds pouring into bottomless black, maybe right into the middle of the earth, was worse. She felt her toes curling like claws and the soles of her feet prickling with electricity.
- 18 Quickly then she began to walk—but it was like walking on a bouncy narrow plank between skyscrapers. She lifted each foot carefully and set it down firmly and yet gently. As fast as she dared, and yet quite slow. But soon—she couldn't help it—she started running. What if that earthquake shock had brought the ceiling down on her mother? Or even shaken the village flat, like dominoes? And what if some great towering piece of machinery, at the factory, had toppled on to her father?
- 19 And then, as she ran, it came again, pitching her off balance, so that her left foot hit her right calf and down she went. As she lay there, flat and winded, it came again. This time, the road seemed to hit her chest and stomach, a strong, hard thump. Then another. And each time, she saw the road gravel under her face jump slightly. And it was then, as she lay there, that she heard the weirdest sound. Nothing like any bird she had ever heard. It came from out of the marsh behind her. It was a long wailing cry, like a fire-engine siren. She jumped up and began to run blindly.

From "The Iron Woman" by Ted Hughes

[*END OF PASSAGE*]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Foundation Level Reading—Text is adapted from *The Iron Woman* by Ted Hughes
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FRIDAY, 6 MAY
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ENGLISH
STANDARD GRADE
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Reading
Questions

Fill in these boxes and read what is printed below.

Full name of centre

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Town

--

Forename(s)

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Surname

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Date of birth

Day Month Year

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Scottish candidate number

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Number of seat

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**NB Before leaving the examination room you must give this booklet to the Invigilator.
If you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.**



QUESTIONS

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Look at Paragraph 1.

1. **Where** and **when** does the story begin?

Where _____

When _____

2 1 0

2. Why did Lucy call the bridge “Otterfeast Bridge”?

2 1 0

3. Write down **two** words from Paragraph 1 which show that Lucy found “this part of the road” thrilling.

2 1 0

Look at Paragraphs 3 and 4.

4. Write down **two** ways the writer suggests that Lucy was uncertain about what she saw.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

2 1 0

Look at Paragraph 5.

5. The eel was “behaving in the strangest way.” (Paragraph 5)

Write down **two** things it did which were strange.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

2 1 0

Look at Paragraphs 6 to 8.

6. “Quite a small eel.” (Paragraph 6)
 Why might Lucy be surprised by this?

2 ■ 0

7. “. . . its squirming, circling, darting dance . . .” (Paragraph 7)
 Explain fully what these words suggest about **how** the eel was moving.

2 1 0

8. “. . . bob, bob, bob.” (Paragraph 7)
 Why does the writer repeat the word “bob”?

2 1 0

9. As Lucy watched the eel,

(a) how did she feel?

2 ■ 0

(b) what did she want to do?

2 ■ 0

Look at Paragraphs 10 to 14.

10. When the bridge shook, what **two** things did Lucy do to keep herself steady?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

2 1 0

[Turn over

11. "What was it?" (Paragraph 11)

In what way does the writer make this sentence stand out?

2 ■ 0

12. "Garronk! Garronk! Garraaaaaak!" (Paragraph 12)

Why does the writer use these words?

2 1 0

13. The heron was "scrambling . . . out of the reed beds." (Paragraph 13)

Write down another word from this paragraph which shows that the heron moved clumsily.

2 ■ 0

14. "Now she felt the loneliness." (Paragraph 14)

Why did Lucy feel like this?

2 ■ 0

15. Lucy looked around as she stood on the bridge.

Write down **three** things she could see.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

2 1 0

Look at Paragraphs 15 to 17.

16. Explain fully why Lucy thought it was an earthquake.

2 1 0

17. What do you think the writer means by “a completely new kind of fear”?

2 ■ 0

18. “. . . bottomless black . . .” (Paragraph 17)

What technique is the writer using in this expression? Tick (✓) the correct box.

Metaphor	
Simile	
Rhyme	
Alliteration	

2 ■ 0

Look at Paragraph 18 to the end of the passage.

19. When Lucy began to walk, why did it feel “like walking on a bouncy narrow plank between skyscrapers”? (Paragraph 18)

2 1 0

20. Explain fully what Lucy was worrying about as she ran away.

2 1 0

[Turn over

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21. Why did the gravel under Lucy’s face “jump slightly”? (Paragraph 19)

2 1 0

22. Lucy heard “the weirdest sound.” (Paragraph 19)

How does the writer show that the sound was weird?

2 ■ 0

Think about the passage as a whole.

23. Write down **one** piece of evidence from the passage which shows Lucy is an **imaginative** girl.

2 ■ 0

24. What do you think Lucy will do next? Tick (✓) **one** answer.

Lucy will rush back home to her parents.	
Lucy will run away and get lost in the marsh.	

Give **two** pieces of evidence from the passage to support your answer.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

2 1 0

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]

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p3

p4

p5

p6

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