

The English School



Mid-Entry Examination 2023

English – *Year 3*

Time Allowed: **1hr 15mins**

General Instructions:

1. Answer all the questions asked
2. Use your own words unless otherwise stated
3. Write neatly
4. Check your work carefully at the end

Marks Allocated:

Section A: Comprehension (25 marks)

Section B: Composition (25 marks)

Good Luck!

Section A: Comprehension

(25 marks)

In the following extract the narrator stands at the front of the Glenmore Hotel, surrounded by the beauty of a perfect summer afternoon. However, something changes this feeling as there is something mysterious about to be revealed.

5 When summer comes to the North Woods, time slows down. And some days it stops altogether. The sky, gray and lowering for much of the year, becomes an ocean of blue, so vast and brilliant you can't help but stop what you're doing – hanging wet sheets to the line maybe, or eating corn on the back steps – to stare up at it. Locusts hum in the woods, inviting you out of the sun and under the branches, and the heat stills the air, heavy and sweet with the smell of cream.

10 As I stand here on the porch of the Glenmore, the finest hotel on all of Big Moose Lake, I tell myself that today – Thursday, July 12, 1906 – is such a day. Time has stopped, and the beauty and calm of this perfect afternoon will never end. The guests up from New York, all in their summer whites, will play ball games on the lawn forever. Old Mrs. Ellis will stay on the porch until the end of time, hitting her cane on the railing for more lemonade. The children of lawyers from Utica, Rome and Syracuse will always run through the woods, laughing and shrieking, dizzy from too much ice cream.

I believe these things. With all my heart. For I am good at telling myself lies.

15 Until Ada Bouchard comes out of the doorway and slips her hand into mine. And Mrs Morrison, the manager's wife, walks right by us, pausing at the top of the steps. Another time, she's pulled our ears for being lazy; now she doesn't seem to even know we're here. Her arms cross over her chest. Her eyes, gray and troubled, fixate on the dock. And the boat tied alongside it.

'That's the Zilpha, ain't it, Mattie?' Ada whispers. 'They've been searching the bottom of the water for them, ain't they?'

20 I squeeze her hand. 'I don't think so. I think they were just looking along the shoreline. Cook says they probably got lost, that couple. Couldn't find their way back in the dark and spent the night under some trees, that's all.'

'I'm scared, Mattie. Ain't you?'

25 I don't answer her. I'm not scared, not exactly, but I can't explain how I feel. I tell myself Ada is a nervous little hen. Words fail me sometimes. I had read every one in the Dictionary of the English Language, but I still have trouble making them come when I want them to.

Right now I want a word that describes the feeling you get – a cold, sick feeling deep down inside – where you know something is happening that will change you, and you don't want it to, but you can't stop it. And you know, for the first time, for the very first time, that there will now be a before and an after, and was and a will be. And that you will never again be quite the same person you were.

30 I imagine it's the feeling Eve had as she bit into the apple. Or Hamlet when he saw his father's ghost. Or Jesus as a boy, right after someone sat him down and told him his pa wasn't a carpenter after all.

What is the word for that feeling? For knowledge and fear and loss all mixed together? Frisdom? Dreadnaciousness? Malbonminance?

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. a) Re-read the opening paragraph. Give four details from the passage that show Glenmore is beautiful.

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

(4 marks)

b) Using the details above and your own words, summarise how the narrator is feeling at this moment.

(2 mark)

3. **Using your own words**, explain what the writer means when she says: 'I am good at telling myself lies.' (line 12).

(2 marks)

4. Give the meaning of the underlined words in the following phrases as the writer uses them in the passage.

i. 'laughing and shrieking' (line 11)

(1 mark)

ii. Explain what this phrase shows us about the usual mood in the town.

(2 marks)

iii. 'fixate on the dock' (line 16)

(1 mark)

iv. Explain why Ada Bouchard is fixated on the dock.

(2 marks)

v. 'I tell myself Ada is a nervous little hen' (line 23)

(1 mark)

vi. Explain what this shows us about the narrator's feelings at that time.

(2 marks)

5. Reread the paragraph beginning 'Right now I want...' (line 26).

a) Using your own words, describe what the narrator is feeling at this moment in the passage.

(3 marks)

b) **Using your own words, summarise** why the narrator feels the way this way. Include 5 points.

(5 marks)

Section B: Composition

(25 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions and write about 300-350 words.

EITHER

Narrative

1. Write a story with the title 'The Change'.

You should:

- develop a realistic plot
- use a variety of narrative techniques
- use language for effect.

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a seaside town.

You should:

- use the senses
- use imagery
- provide detail for your reader
- make sure you do NOT write a story.

12 marks are available for the **content and structure** of your writing

13 marks are available for the **style and accuracy** of your writing.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

- ***This is the end of the examination -***