

The English School

Mid-Entry Examination 2025

English – *Year 2*

Time Allowed: **1hour 15minutes**

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)

It was a bitter winter evening, and snow lay deep on the ground outside the tall iron gates of Willoughby Chase. The wind howled again, swirling through the trees and sending showers of snow across the yard. The house, normally so proud and tall, looked dark and quiet against the fading light of the day. Inside, the fire crackled, but the warmth seemed small against the cold creeping in from outside.

Bonnie sat by the fire, wrapped in a thick woolen scarf, staring into the flames. Her hair was wild from the wind, and her eyes were distant. She looked calm, but something about the night made her uneasy. She shifted in her chair, as though waiting for something she couldn't name.

Sylvia, her older cousin, stood near the window, watching the snow swirl outside. The dark shadows from the trees stretched across the ground, growing longer as the evening wore on. Sylvia felt a strange feeling in her chest, like something was wrong. It was the kind of feeling that came when everything seemed too quiet, too still.

"Do you hear that?" Sylvia asked, turning to Bonnie.

Bonnie blinked, looking up. "The wind?" she asked, as though it was obvious.

"No... something else," Sylvia replied, her voice quieter now. She stepped closer to the window and peered out into the swirling snow. The wind howled outside, making the trees bend, but it wasn't just the wind. There was something in the air—something worrying.

"I don't know what you mean," Bonnie said, sounding slightly annoyed. "The wolves, maybe? They've always been out there."

Sylvia hesitated, her eyes still fixed on the dark shapes in the yard. The wolves were always a threat in the winter. But something about tonight felt different. It wasn't just the wolves. There was something more... dangerous.

Then there was a noise—a soft scraping sound, almost like footsteps in the snow. Sylvia froze, listening. The house was quiet now, and for a second, she thought she had imagined it. But then it came again—louder, closer.

"Did you hear that?" Sylvia asked, her voice sharp now.

Bonnie stood up, startled. "What was that?" she asked, her voice tense. She was no longer sounding sure of herself.

Sylvia grabbed the curtain and pulled it back, just enough to peer outside. The snow-covered garden looked empty, but the shadows were strange, moving in ways they shouldn't. The wind was howling again, making everything feel more eerie.

She stepped back from the window, her heart racing. "I think... we should go check," she said, her voice low.

"Check? Are you mad?" Bonnie asked, wide-eyed. But even as she spoke, she knew there was no point in arguing with Sylvia. If there was something out there, they couldn't just sit here.

Sylvia grabbed her cloak from the hook by the door and wrapped it around her shoulders. Bonnie, still hesitant, followed her, clutching the edge of her shawl tightly around her. The cold hit them both the second the door opened, biting into their skin. The snow was falling harder now, and the wind seemed to be pushing against them.

"The back gate's open," Sylvia said, glancing around. Her eyes widened. She had checked it earlier that day—it had been locked. Why was it open now?

"I don't like this," Bonnie said, her voice trembling.

Sylvia glanced at her younger cousin and nodded. "Stay close," she said. They both stepped into the yard, and the cold snow crunched underfoot. The wind was howling, and it felt like the world had been swallowed by the storm.

Suddenly, they heard it again—quick footsteps in the snow, coming from the far side of the garden. Sylvia's heart skipped a beat. Who was out there in this storm?

They both turned toward the sound, but no one was there. The garden was empty, but the shadows between the trees seemed darker, deeper. It was as if the night itself was watching them.

A figure appeared out of the dark. A man, wearing a long cloak, his face hidden in shadow. He moved quickly, too quickly, as though he didn't want to be seen. Before either of them could speak, he vanished again into the darkness.

Sylvia stared after him, feeling her stomach churn. Who was that? And what did he want?

Answer all the questions that follow.

1. Describe the setting outside Willoughby Chase. Include four details.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(4 marks)

2. Decide whether the following statements are True or False:

	True	False
Bonnie is sitting by the fire when the story begins		
Sylvia is younger than Bonnie		
The back gate had been locked earlier that day		
The man in the gardener speaks to the girls		

(4 marks)

3.

a) In your own words, explain what Sylvia means when she says:

“There was something in the air—something worrying.”

(2 marks)

b) How does the writer create a sense of fear and suspense in the story? Give four details.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

(4 marks)

4. Explain the meaning of the following phrases in your own words:

a) "The wind howled again, swirling through the trees"

(2 marks)

b) "The shadows were strange, moving in ways they shouldn't."

(2 marks)

c) "It was as if the night itself was watching them."

(2 marks)

5. Give the meaning of the underlined words as used in the passage:

a) "Bonnie sat by the fire, wrapped in a thick woolen shawl."

Meaning of the underlined word: _____

(1 mark)

b) "The cold snow crunched underfoot."

Meaning of the underlined word: _____

(1 mark)

6. Rewrite the sentence in the past tense:

"The wind is howling, and it feels like the world has been swallowed by the storm."

(2 marks)

7. Choose the adjective in the following sentence:

"A man, wearing a long cloak, his face hidden in shadow."

a) long

b) wearing

c) cloak

d) hidden

(1 mark)

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 Strange Noise'

You should:

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

OR

Descriptive

2. Describe a winter evening in a quiet village.

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.

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

