



ALDENHAM SCHOOL

11 + Entrance Paper

Sample Paper 2009

ENGLISH

Length of examination – One hour

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

This examination consists of two parts:

Answer **all** questions in Section A. When you have finished Section A. continue immediately to Section B

Answer **one** question in Section B

We suggest you spend 30 minutes on each section

Remember to write your full name on each piece of paper you use.

Check your work carefully for correct spelling and punctuation

Section A: Comprehension

Read the following short extract carefully. Then answer **all** the questions in **Section A**. Marks will be awarded for detailed reference to the text when answering questions.

Midwinter's Eve

'Too many!' James shouted, and slammed the door behind him.

'What?' said Will.

'Too many kids in this family, that's what. Just too many.' James stood fuming on the landing like a small angry locomotive, then stumped across to the window-seat and stared out at the garden. Will put aside his book and pulled up his legs to make room. 'I could hear all the yelling,' he said, chin on knees.

'Wasn't anything,' James said. 'Just stupid Barbara again. Bossing. Pick up this, don't touch that. And Mary joining in, twitter twitter twitter. You'd think this house was big enough, but there's always *people*.'

They both looked out of the window. The snow lay thin and apologetic over the world. That wide grey sweep was the lawn, with the straggling trees of the orchard still dark beyond; the white squares were the roofs of the garage, the old barn, the rabbit hutches, the chicken coops. Further back there were only the flat fields of Dawsons' Farm, dimly white-striped. All the broad sky was grey, full of more snow that refused to fall. There was no colour anywhere.

'Four days to Christmas,' Will said. 'I wish it would snow properly.'

'And your birthday tomorrow.'

'Mmm.' He had been going to say that too, but it would have been too much like a reminder. And the gift he most wished for on his birthday was something nobody could give him: it was snow, beautiful, deep, blanketing snow, and it never came. At least this year there was the grey sprinkle, better than nothing.

He said, remembering a duty: 'I haven't fed the rabbits yet. Want to come?'

Booted and muffled, they clumped out through the sprawling kitchen. A full symphony orchestra was swelling out of the radio; their eldest sister Gwen was slicing onions and singing; their mother was bent broad-beamed and red-faced over an oven. 'Rabbits!' she shouted, when she caught sight of them. 'And some more hay from the farm!'

'We're going!' Will shouted back. The radio let out a sudden hideous crackle of static as he passed the table. He jumped. Mrs Stanton shrieked, 'Turn that thing DOWN.'

Outdoors, it was suddenly very quiet. Will dipped out a pail of pellets from the bin in the farm-smelling barn, which was not really a barn at all, but a long, low building with a tiled roof, once a stable. They tramped through the thin snow to the row of heavy wooden hutches, leaving dark footmarks on the hard frozen ground.

Opening doors to fill the feed-boxes, Will passed, frowning. Normally the rabbits would be huddled sleepily in corners, only the greedy ones coming twitch-nosed forward to eat. Today they seemed restless and uneasy, rustling to and fro, banging against their wooden walls; one or two even leapt back in alarm when he opened their doors. He came to his favourite rabbit, named Chelsea, and reached in as usual to rub him affectionately behind the ears, but the animal scuffled back away from him and cringed into a corner, the pink-rimmed eyes staring up blank and terrified.

(Extract © Susan Cooper – *The Dark is Rising* 1973)

Section A: Questions (25 marks)

Spend 30 minutes on this section

Remember to refer to the passage to support your answers.

- 1) What kind of mood is James in at the start of this passage? How do you know this from the passage? (5 marks)
- 2) Who does James blame for his current mood? (2 marks)
- 3) What have these people been doing to produce this reaction in James? (3 marks)
- 4) When James and Will look out of the window, using your own words describe what they see? (5 marks)
- 5) What does Will really want for his birthday present (2 marks)
- 6) How are the rabbits described in the passage? What atmosphere does this create at the end of this extract? (8 marks)

Section B (25 marks)

Spend 30 minutes on this section

Extended Creative Writing

Choose **ONE** question to answer.

Write a descriptive piece entitled – 'Winter Fun'

OR

Write a story entitled - 'Trapped in the Snows'