



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL
BATH

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sample Paper: ENGLISH – READING and WRITING



Total time allowed: 60 minutes

Section A – Reading: 5 minutes reading + 25 minutes answering questions

Section B – Writing: 30 minutes

Instructions

- Read the story slowly and carefully.
- Then read the questions in the answer booklet.
- Then read the story again.
- Do not start to write until you are told to do so.
- Make your answers as detailed as you can.

SECTION A: READING

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own words when appropriate.

Miles Wednesday, orphaned, unwashed and living in a circus barrel, wakes up in the middle of the night and discovers he has an unexpected visitor...



When he opened his eyes again he did not know how much time had passed, but everything seemed strangely still. Not an owl's hoot or mouse's rustle broke the silence, and the pine tree stood silently, undisturbed by the faintest breeze. Miles rubbed his eyes and looked to see if work on the circus tent had ceased, but his eye was caught by something that had not been there before. A large shape crouched in the grass not twenty paces from where he sat in the mouth of the barrel. A shape with a huge head, enormous paws and a long striped tail. It was a fully grown Bengal tiger, stretched out motionless except for the tip of his tail, which twitched from side to side in the silvery grass.

The tiger was so close Miles could almost count his whiskers. His inky stripes seemed to shift and breathe as the thin clouds swept across the moon. Miles held his breath. It was no use crying out; no-one would hear him. He had never been face to face with a tiger before, but he was pretty sure that to the magnificent striped beast who sat a stone's throw from his barrel, he must look like a sandwich whose bread had fallen off.

The tiger yawned, his teeth like yellow knives in the red cave of his mouth, and gave a loud but oddly human sigh that made his whiskers shiver. His massive head turned and he stared directly at Miles with his amber eyes. The world turned and the grass grew, and still the tiger regarded the boy silently. Although he had never seen a tiger before, Miles found his gaze strangely familiar, like an echo of a dream often visited and always forgotten. He could feel his heart thumping, and realised that he had not taken a breath since the tiger had appeared.

"Most people run," said the tiger at last, in a deep smooth voice. He flicked the tip of his tail.

Miles said nothing for a moment. Obviously the tiger could not really have spoken to him. Everyone knows that tigers can't talk. Except for the tiger himself, it seems, who was waiting for an answer.

"I have nowhere to run to," said Miles, his voice barely above a whisper. "So if you are going to eat me," he added after a moment, "please make it quick".

The tiger gazed at the skinny boy, wrapped in an over-sized overcoat and curled up in the mouth of the barrel. "Now that you mention it," he said, "I do get a little peckish at this time of the morning, but you wouldn't make much of a snack."

Read the passage carefully which describes Miles waking up and meeting the tiger, and then answer the following questions.

Go into as much detail as you can.

Spend 25 minutes on this part.

1. Find and copy out three phrases in the first paragraph that tells you that when Miles wakes up there is no noise.

a)

b)

c)

[3 marks]

2. Find and copy out a word in the first paragraph which tells you that it is a moonlit night.

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[2 marks]

Please turn over the page

3. In your own words, give two reasons why Miles doesn't shout for help.

a)

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b)

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[4 marks]

4. '*... he stared directly at Miles with his amber eyes*'

Why does the writer use the word '*amber*' to describe the tiger's eyes?

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[4 marks]

5. When the tiger suddenly stares at him, the writer says '*The world turned and the grass grew...*'

Why did the writer put this in? What does it tell us about how Miles feels?

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[2 marks]

6. How does the writer make the tiger seem threatening in this extract?

Explain all the things in the description of the tiger that make him seem frightening. You can use quotations and your own words.

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[5 marks]

Total for this section of the paper: 20 marks

Please turn over the page

SECTION B: WRITING

Time allowed: 30 minutes

There is **ONE** writing task of 30 minutes; for example, it could be a sort of a letter or a speech or a piece of factual writing.

There are now fewer than 4,500 tigers in the wild. A century ago, the number stood at over 100,000.

Tiger bones are used in Chinese medicine to cure rheumatism and arthritis. Other parts of the tiger are sold as tourist souvenirs.

A mere 500 Sumatran tigers now exist in the wild.

Habitat destruction is also a major problem.



Poaching has increased rapidly in recent years because demand for tiger products has risen as a result of growing human populations in China, Korea and Taiwan.

The World Wildlife Fund is working with local law enforcement agencies to expose the illegal trade in tiger parts.

The WWF is also working with local people to develop acceptable alternatives for tiger parts used in traditional medicines.

Writing Task – Example 1

You want to encourage members of your class to donate money to the World Wildlife Fund to help save the tiger.

Write the words of the speech you would make to them.

You can use any of the information on the previous page to give you ideas but remember to write as much as possible in your own words. The important thing is to try to persuade your audience to get involved.

OR

Writing Task – Example 2

Write a story about someone who meets a tiger deep in the jungle.

If you wish to, you could start off like this: *'Suddenly she saw it. It was prowling towards her, its amber eyes glinting in the evening sunlight...'* Or you could choose your own opening sentence.

Describe what she feels and what happens next. Be imaginative. Use plenty of vivid descriptive language.

Now go back and CHECK your work.