



YEAR 7 ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Part 1: Reading Passage and Answer Sheet Based on extract from “The Water Babies” by Charles Kingsley

Time allowed 40 minutes

Read the following extract and answer the questions below. If you do not have the answer to a question, move to the next one and try to continue.

The extract is from Charles Kingsley’s “The Water Babies” which tells the story of Tom, a young chimney sweep, who is cruelly treated by his master, Mr. Grimes. After he falls down a chimney and sees himself in a mirror, dirty and ragged, he wants to be clean and runs away. When he jumps into a stream, he enters a magical world of the “water babies”.

When Tom starts his journey to the sea, he is alone, but is always watched by the ever-present 'Queen of all fairies' and his other 'brothers and sisters', who long to play with him, but are warned that he first needs to 'learn lessons from the animals'. He gets into scrapes and the following extract describes how he ate all the lollipops.

Now you may fancy that Tom was quite good, when he had everything that he could want or wish: but you would be very much mistaken. Being quite comfortable is a very good thing; but it does not make people good. Indeed, it sometimes makes them naughty; as it made the people in the Bible, who
5 got fat and kicked, like horses overfed and underworked. And I am very sorry to say that this happened to little Tom. For he grew so fond of the sea-bullseye¹s and sea-lollipops that his foolish little head could think of nothing else: and he was always longing for more, and wondering when the strange
10 lady would come again and give him some, and what she would give him, and how much, and whether she would give him more than the others. And he thought of nothing but lollipops by day, and dreamt of nothing else by night--and what happened then?

Then he began to watch the lady to see where she kept the sweet things: and began hiding, and sneaking, and following her about, and pretending to

¹ Bullseye – a boiled sweet

15 be looking the other way, or going after something else, till he found out that she kept them in a beautiful mother-of-pearl cabinet ²away in a deep crack of the rocks.

And he longed to go to the cabinet, and yet he was afraid; and then he longed again, and was less afraid; and at last, by continual thinking about it,
20 he longed so violently that he was not afraid at all. And one night, when all the other children were asleep, and he could not sleep for thinking of lollipops, he crept away among the rocks, and got to the cabinet, and behold! It was open.

But, when he saw all the nice things inside, instead of being delighted, he
25 was quite frightened, and wished he had never come there. And then he would only touch them, and he did; and then he would only taste one, and he did; and then he would only eat one, and he did; and then he would only eat two, and then three, and so on; and then he was terrified lest she should come and catch him, and began gobbling them down so fast that he did not
30 taste them, or have any pleasure in them; and then he felt sick, and would have only one more; and then only one more again; and so on till he had eaten them all up.

And all the while, close behind him, stood Mrs. Bedoneby.

Some people may say, "But why did she not keep her cupboard locked?"
35 Well, I know.--It may seem a very strange thing, but she never does keep her cupboard locked; every one may go and taste for themselves, and fare accordingly. It is very odd, but so it is; and I am quite sure that she knows best. Perhaps she wishes people to keep their fingers out of the fire, by having them burned.

40 She took off her spectacles, because she did not like to see too much; and in her pity she arched up her eyebrows into her very hair, and her eyes grew so wide that they would have taken in all the sorrows of the world, and filled with great big tears, as they too often do.

But all she said was:

45 "Ah, you poor little dear! You are just like all the rest."

But she said it to herself, and Tom neither heard nor saw her. Now, you must not fancy that she was sentimental at all. If you do, and think that she is going to let off you, or me, or any human being when we do wrong, because she is too tender-hearted to punish us, then you will find yourself
50 very much mistaken, as many a man does every year and every day.

But what did the strange fairy do when she saw all her lollipops eaten?

² Cabinet – an attractive cupboard

55 Did she fly at Tom, catch him by the scruff of the neck, hold him, howk³ him, hump him, hurry him, hit him, poke him, pull him, pinch him, pound him, put him in the corner, shake him, slap him, set him on a cold stone to reconsider himself, and so forth?

Not a bit. You may watch her at work if you know where to find her. But you will never see her do that. For, if she had, she knew quite well Tom would have fought, and kicked, and bit, and said bad words, and turned again that moment into a naughty little heathen⁴ chimney-sweep.

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³ Howk – dig into

⁴ Heathen – not religious but often suggesting uneducated and savage

QUESTIONS

1. Who is telling the story? Underline the right answer

- a. First person
- b. Second person
- c. Third person

[1 mark]

2. Who is the narrator talking to? Underline the right answer

- a. Tom
- b. The reader
- c. People in the bible

[1 mark]

3. What mistake does the narrator think the reader might make about Tom's behaviour?
[lines 1-5]

[3 marks]

4. What lesson might be taught here by referring to that mistake?

[2 marks]

5. Identify the following from lines 1 – 5

- a. A simile

[1 mark]

- b. An example

[1 mark]

6. What is Tom thinking about in the first 12 lines?

[2 marks]

7. What does Tom do in lines 13 – 17? How would you describe this action?

[4 marks]

8. What emotions does Tom experience in lines 18 – 29?

[2 marks]

9. Identify an occasion when the writer uses a single sentence as a whole paragraph. Explain what effect this creates?

[5 marks]

10. What is the significance of the fairy/lady's name?

[2 marks]

11. Re-read lines 34-39. Why is the cupboard left unlocked and what lesson could be learnt from 'fingers out of the fire by getting them burnt'?

[5 marks]

12. Give an example of direct speech

[2 marks]

13. How is the fairy described? How does her response show us what she is like?

[4 marks]

14. Re-read lines 52-55 and explain what effects the writer creates?

[6 marks]

15. Why does the fairy not punish Tom?

[3 marks]

16. Who do you think the writer was writing this story for?

[1 mark]

17. When do you think this story was written?

[1 mark]

18. What reasons do you give for your answer to question 17?

[4 marks]

Total 50 marks

LANGUAGE QUESTIONS

1. From the text given, write down an example of:

- a. A verb -----
- b. An adverb -----
- c. A noun -----
- d. A proper noun -----
- e. An imperative -----

(5 marks)

2. From the text given, list five conjunctions [connectives]

(5 marks)

3. Re-write the following sentence putting in the proper punctuation.

it was a horrible classroom with dark windows and black shutters and the teacher shouted billy you are late again if you are late tomorrow i will be cross no sir said billy

(5 marks)

4. Rewrite the passage below to change the direct speech into indirect speech.

‘Very well,’ said this gentleman, briskly smiling, and folding his arms. ‘That’s a horse. Now, let me ask you, girls and boys, Would you paper a room with representations of horses?’

(5 marks)

Total 20 marks