



OUNDLE
School



EXAMINATION PAPER

Junior Entrance 2023

English

Time allowed: 1 hour

Name: _____

Instructions

- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- Answer on lined paper. Start Section B on a new sheet of paper. Write your name clearly at the top of each sheet of paper that you use.
- Answer ALL the questions in Section A. Choose ONE question from Section B. You are given advice about how long to spend of each section.
- You are expected to write clearly and accurately throughout each of your answers. Accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar will be evaluated throughout the paper (and especially in Section B), although there is no actual mark allocation for these elements. You should leave some time towards the end of the examination to check your work carefully.
- The maximum number of marks for this paper is 50.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

You should spend about 35 minutes on this section

Read this extract from Flora Thompson's novel *Lark Rise to Candleford* and then answer the questions that follow.

You should write in full sentences, including as much detail as necessary to explain your point/points clearly.

Write your name at the top of each sheet of paper that you use.

When Laura said she had seen a ghost coming out of the clothes closet in the bedroom she had not meant to tell a lie. She really believed she had seen one. One evening, before it was quite dark and yet the corners of the room were shadowy her mother had sent her upstairs to fetch something out of the chest, and, as she leant over it, with one eye turned apprehensively towards the clothes closet corner, she thought she saw something move. At the time she felt sure she saw something move, though she had no clear idea of what it was that was moving. It may have been a lock of her own hair, or the end of a window-curtain stirring, or merely a shadow seen sideways; but, whatever it was, it was sufficient to send her screaming and stumbling downstairs. 5 10

At first, her mother was sorry for her, for she thought she had fallen down a step or two and hurt herself; but when Laura said that she had seen a ghost she put her off her lap and began to ask questions.

At this point the fibbing began. When asked what the ghost was like, she first said it was dark and shaggy like a bear; then that it was tall and white, adding as an after-thought that it had eyes like lanterns and she thought it was carrying one, but was not sure. 'I don't suppose you are sure,' said her mother dryly. 'If you ask me it's all a parcel of fibs, and if you don't look out you'll be struck dead, like Ananias and Sapphira in the Bible,' and she proceeded to tell their story as a warning. 15 20

After that, Laura never spoke of the closet to anyone else but Edmund; but she was still desperately afraid of it, as she had been as long as she could remember. There was something terrifying about a door which was never unlocked, and a door in such a dark corner. Even her mother had never seen inside it, for the contents belonged to their landlady, Mrs Herring, who when she moved out of the house had left some of her belongings there, saying that she would fetch them as soon as possible. 'What was inside it?' the children used to ask each other. Edmund thought there was a skeleton, for he had heard his mother say, 'There's a skeleton in every cupboard,' but Laura felt it was nothing as harmless. 25

After they were in bed and their mother had gone downstairs at night, she would turn her back on the door, but, if she peeped round, as she often did – for how otherwise could she be sure that it was not slowly opening? – all the darkness in the room seemed to be piled up in that corner. There was the window, a grey square, with sometimes a star or two showing, and there were 30

the faint outlines of the chair and the chest, but where the closet door should have been was only darkness.

'Afraid of a locked door!' her mother exclaimed one night when she found her sitting up in bed and shivering. 'What's inside it? Only a lot of old lumber you may be sure. If there was anything much good, she'd have fetched it before now. Lie down and go to sleep, do, and don't be so silly!' *Lumber! Lumber!* What a queer word, especially when said over and over beneath the bedclothes. It meant odds and ends of old rubbish, her mother had explained, but, to her, it sounded more like black shadows come alive ...

40

Questions:

1. What made Laura think there was a ghost?
[3 marks]
2. Why did she start to lie?
[3 marks]
3. Look closely at the first paragraph (lines 1-10). How effective is this as the first paragraph of this passage? You might like to comment on the writer's use of setting and the information that is and is not included as well as how the paragraph is actually written, for example the use of vocabulary and the types of sentences used.
[5 marks]
4. Look closely at the third paragraph (lines 14-20). Give the two *similes* that the writer uses here.
[2 marks]
5. Look again at the same lines as in the question above. Give the *metaphor* the writer uses here.
[1 mark]
6. Explain the meaning of the following words or phrases as they are used in the passage:
 - i. apprehensively (line 5)
 - ii. shaggy (line 15)
 - iii. said her mother dryly (line 17)
 - iv. There's a skeleton in every cupboard (lines 25-26)[8 marks]
7. Laura's mother describes her as 'silly' (line 37). Given everything you are told in the passage, do you think Laura is silly? Give reasons for your answer.
[8 marks]

TURN OVER TO SECTION B

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING

You should spend around 25 minutes on this section

Answer **ONE** of the following questions.

You are reminded of the importance of clear and accurate written English and of careful presentation in your answer. All questions carry equal marks.

Start your answer on a new sheet of paper and write your name at the top.

1. Laura's father wrote to Mrs Herring and asked if she could empty the cupboard so that they could use it:

'One day she arrived and turned out to be a little, lean old lady with a dark brown mole on one leathery cheek and wearing a black bonnet with jet dangles, like tiny fishing rods. Edmund and Laura sat on the bed and watched her ...'

Tell the story of what happened when she opened the cupboard. Write as if you were Laura.

[20 marks]

OR

2. 'It was only a little fib.' Write a story that begins with these words.

[20 marks]

OR

3. Write a description or story inspired by this picture.



[20 marks]

END OF PAPER