



11 Plus

Paper [7]

English

Total marks: [40]

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Information for candidates

- You have 60 minutes.
- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- You are advised to spend 35 minutes on section one (including 5 minutes reading time), and 25 minutes on section two.
- There are 40 marks available.

Full name _____

Section One: Comprehension

Read the following extract from *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot (1860) and answer the questions that follow.

Maggie and Tom are brother and sister who have fallen out over a man who Maggie liked. She has come back to see him to discuss it.

Between four and five o'clock on the afternoon of the fifth day from that on which Stephen and Maggie had left St Ogg's, Tom Tulliver was standing on the gravel walk outside the old house at Dorlcote Mill. He was master there now; he had half fulfilled his father's dying wish, and by years of steady self-government and energetic work he had brought himself near to the attainment of more than the old respectability which had been the proud inheritance of the Dodsons and Tullivers.

But Tom's face, as he stood in the hot, still sunshine of that summer afternoon, had no gladness, no triumph in it. His mouth wore its bitterest expression, his severe brow its hardest and deepest fold, as he drew down his hat farther over his eyes to shelter them from the sun, and thrusting his hands deep into his pockets, began to walk up and down the gravel. No news of his sister had been heard since Bob Jakin had come back in the steamer from Mudport, and put an end to all improbable suppositions of an accident on the water by stating that he had seen her land from a vessel with Mr Stephen Guest. Would the next news be that she was married,—or what? Probably that she was not married; Tom's mind was set to the expectation of the worst that could happen,—not death, but disgrace.

As he was walking with his back toward the entrance gate, and his face toward the rushing mill-stream, a tall, dark-eyed figure, that we know well, approached the gate, and paused to look at him with a fast-beating heart. Her brother was the human being of whom she had been most afraid from her childhood upward; afraid with that fear which springs in us when we love one who is inexorable, unbending, unmodifiable, with a mind that we can never mould ourselves upon, and yet that we cannot endure to alienate from us.

That deep-rooted fear was shaking Maggie now; but her mind was unswervingly bent on returning to her brother, as the natural refuge that had been given her. In her deep humiliation under the retrospect of her own weakness,—in her anguish at the injury she had inflicted,—she almost desired to endure the severity of Tom's reproof, to submit in patient silence to that harsh, disapproving judgment against which she had so often rebelled; it seemed no more than just to her now,—who was weaker than she was? She craved that outward help to her better purpose which would come from complete, submissive confession; from being in the presence of those whose looks and words would be a reflection of her own conscience.

Maggie had been kept on her bed at York for a day with that prostrating headache which was likely to follow on the terrible strain of the previous day and night. There was an expression of physical pain still about her brow and eyes, and her whole appearance, with her dress so long unchanged, was worn and distressed. She lifted the latch of the gate and walked in slowly. Tom did not hear the gate; he was just then close upon the roaring dam; but he presently turned, and lifting up his eyes, saw the figure whose worn look and

loneliness seemed to him a confirmation of his worst conjectures. He paused, trembling and white with disgust and indignation.

Maggie paused too, three yards before him. She felt the hatred in his face, felt it rushing through her fibres; but she must speak.

“Tom,” she began faintly, “I am come back to you,—I am come back home—for refuge—to tell you everything.”

“You will find no home with me,” he answered, with tremulous rage. “You have disgraced us all. You have disgraced my father’s name. You have been a curse to your best friends. You have been base, deceitful; no motives are strong enough to restrain you. I wash my hands of you forever. You don’t belong to me.”

Their mother had come to the door now. She stood paralyzed by the double shock of seeing Maggie and hearing Tom’s words.

“Tom,” said Maggie, with more courage, “I am perhaps not so guilty as you believe me to be. I never meant to give way to my feelings. I struggled against them. I was carried too far in the boat to come back on Tuesday. I came back as soon as I could.”

Questions

1. What time of day is it at the beginning of the extract? (1 mark)
2. Why is Tom unhappy? (3 marks)
3. How does Maggie feel about Tom in paragraph three? Use evidence from the extract to support your answer. (4 marks)
4. In your own words, summarise how Maggie is feeling in paragraph four. (4 marks)
5. Who else lives with Tom and how does she feel about the situation? (2 marks)
6. What do you think will happen next? Use evidence from the extract to support your ideas. (5 marks)

Total: 20 marks.

Section Two: Non-fiction writing

Write about an argument or a discussion you have had with a family member or friend. What happened? Why did you argue or discuss something? How do you feel about it now?

Total: 20 marks.