



11 Plus

Paper [8]

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 Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848) and answer the questions that follow.

The narrator is out in the countryside hunting when he comes across a building he has not seen before. He lives in a village called Linden-Car.

I think the day I last mentioned was a certain Sunday, the latest in the October of 1827. On the following Tuesday I was out with my dog and gun, in pursuit of such game as I could find within the territory of Linden-Car; but finding none at all, I turned my arms against the hawks and carrion crows, whose depredations, as I suspected, had deprived me of better prey. To this end I left the more frequented regions, the wooded valleys, the corn-fields, and the meadow-lands, and proceeded to mount the steep acclivity of Wildfell, the wildest and the loftiest eminence in our neighbourhood, where, as you ascend, the hedges, as well as the trees, become scanty and stunted, the former, at length, giving place to rough stone fences, partly greened over with ivy and moss, the latter to larches and Scotch fir-trees, or isolated blackthorns. The fields, being rough and stony, and wholly unfit for the plough, were mostly devoted to the pasturing of sheep and cattle; the soil was thin and poor: bits of grey rock here and there peeped out from the grassy hillocks; bilberry-plants and heather—relics of more savage wildness—grew under the walls; and in many of the enclosures, ragweeds and rushes usurped supremacy over the scanty herbage; but these were not *my* property.

Near the top of this hill, about two miles from Linden-Car, stood Wildfell Hall, a superannuated mansion of the Elizabethan era, built of dark grey stone, venerable and picturesque to look at, but doubtless, cold and gloomy enough to inhabit, with its thick stone mullions and little latticed panes, its time-eaten air-holes, and its too lonely, too unsheltered situation,—only shielded from the war of wind and weather by a group of Scotch firs, themselves half blighted with storms, and looking as stern and gloomy as the Hall itself.

Behind it lay a few desolate fields, and then the brown heath-clad summit of the hill; before it (enclosed by stone walls, and entered by an iron gate, with large balls of grey granite—similar to those which decorated the roof and gables—surmounting the gate-posts) was a garden,—once stocked with such hard plants and flowers as could best brook the soil and climate, and such trees and shrubs as could best endure the gardener's torturing shears, and most readily assume the shapes he chose to give them,—now, having been left so many years untilled and untrimmed, abandoned to the weeds and the grass, to the frost and the wind, the rain and the drought, it presented a very singular appearance indeed. The close green walls of privet, that had bordered the principal walk, were two-thirds withered away, and the rest grown beyond all reasonable bounds; the old boxwood swan, that sat beside the scraper, had lost its neck and half its body: the castellated towers of laurel in the middle of the garden, the gigantic warrior that stood on one side of the gateway, and the lion that guarded the other, were sprouted into such fantastic shapes as resembled nothing either in heaven or earth, or in the waters under the earth; but, to my young imagination, they presented all of them a goblinish appearance, that harmonised well with the ghostly legions and dark traditions our old nurse had told us respecting the haunted hall and its departed occupants.

Questions

1. Why did the narrator head towards Wildfell? (2 marks)
2. Describe the countryside in paragraph one, using your own words as far as possible. (4 marks)
3. How far is Wildfell Hall from Linden-Car and when was it built? (2 marks)
4. What are your impressions of Wildfell Hall from paragraph two? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (6 marks)
5. Using paragraph three, explain the mood that the writer creates in her description of the garden. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (6 marks)

Total: 20 marks

Section Two: Creative Writing

Imagine you find the key to Wildfell Hall as you are searching around the garden. Write a description of what you find when you open the front door and go inside.

Total: 20 marks