

Bancroft's English

11+ Entrance

English Entrance Paper (Sample)

Time allowed 30 minutes

Instructions:

Use the extract on the next page to answer both the ANALYSIS TASK (page 2) and the CREATIVE TASK (page 4).

Read the following extract and answer the two questions below:

Fairy-tale words; fairy-tale advice. But we lived in a fairy-tale place. In a lock-keeper's cottage, by a river, in the middle of the Fens. Far away from the wide world. And my father, who was a superstitious man, liked to do things in such a way as would make them seem magical and occult. So he would always set his eel-traps at night. Not because eel-traps cannot be set by day, but because the mystery of darkness appealed to him. And one night, in midsummer, in 1937, we went with him, Dick and I, to set traps near Stott's Bridge. It was hot and windless. When the traps had been set we lay back on the river-bank. Dick was fourteen and I was ten. The pumps were tump-tumping, as they do, incessantly, so that you scarcely notice them, all over the Fens, and frogs were croaking in the ditches. Up above, the sky swarmed with stars which seemed to multiply as we looked at them. And as we lay, Dad said: 'Do you know what the stars are? They are the silver dust of God's blessing. They are little broken-off bits of heaven. God cast them down to fall on us. But when he saw how wicked we were, he changed his mind and ordered the stars to stop. Which is why they hang in the sky but seem as though at any time they might drop...'

*Fens- a low-lying, waterlogged or marshy area of land that is subject to flooding.

Analysis task (number 1) - 15 minutes

Write about how the writer makes the setting feel magical and mysterious. You might like to consider:

- The writer's use of vocabulary
- The writer's use of imagery
- The way the writer uses description to build atmosphere

Please use short quotations where relevant

Creative task (number 2) - 15 minutes

Now continue the story and describe what happens next as the characters lie by the river at night. You can draw on your own experiences if you wish but also remember to use your imagination and write something atmospheric.

Try to:

- Bring the riverbank setting to life for the reader
- Use an interesting range of vocabulary and imagery
- Craft sentences for effect to create mystery and wonder

Analysis task (number 1) answer sheet

Your name:

Sample

Sample

If you require another answer sheet please ask the teacher, and continue on another page.

Sample

If you require another answer sheet please ask the teacher, and continue on another page.