



**Chigwell School**

**13+ Specimen Paper**

**English Language & Literature**

**45 Minutes**

**FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer both section A and B

### Section A

Read the extract printed below and answer the question that follows.

*Flavia da Luce is a 12 year old detective and she has just discovered something unpleasant in her garden.*

I stretched, yawned and climbed out of bed. The gramophone had run down, frozen in mid sonata, its needle lying dead in the grooves. For a fleeting moment I thought of winding it up again to give the whole household a reveille. Instead, I dressed and went quietly down the back stairs and into the kitchen.

As I passed the window, I noticed that a slice had been cut from Mrs Mullet's custard pie. How odd, I thought: it was certainly none of the de Luces who had taken it. If there was one thing upon which we all agreed – one thing that united us as a family – it was our collective loathing of Mrs Mullet's custard pies. Whenever she strayed from our favourite rhubarb or gooseberry to the dreaded custard, we generally begged off, feigning group illness and sent her packing off home with the pie and solicitous instructions to serve it up, with our compliments, to her good husband Alf.

As I stepped outside, I saw that the silver light of dawn had transformed the garden into a magic glade, its shadows darkened by the thin band of day beyond the walls. Sparkling dew lay upon everything, and I should not have been at all surprised if a unicorn had stepped from behind the rose bush and tried to put its head in my lap.

I was walking towards the wheelbarrow when I tripped suddenly and fell forward onto my hands and knees.

'Bugger!' I said, already looking round to make sure that no one had heard me. I was now plastered with wet, black loam.

'Bugger,' I said again, a little less loudly.

Twisting round to see what had tripped me up, I spotted it at once: something white protruding from the cucumbers. For a teetering moment there was a part of me that fought desperately to believe it was a little rake but, rapidly, reason returned, and my mind admitted that it was a hand. A hand attached to an arm: an arm that snaked off into the cucumber patch.

And there, at the end of it, tinted an awful dewy cucumber green by the dark foliage, was a face. A face that looked for all the world like the Green Man of forest legend.

Driven by a will stronger than my own, I found myself dropping further to my hands and knees beside this apparition, partly in reverence and partly for a closer look. When I was almost nose-to-nose with the thing its eyes began to open. I was too shocked to move a muscle.

The body in the cucumbers sucked in a shuddering breath and then, bubbling at the nose, exhaled it in a single word, slowly and a little sadly, directly into my face.

'Vale!' it said.

My nostrils pinched reflexively as I got a whiff of a peculiar odour – an odour whose name was, for an instant, on the very tip of my tongue. The eyes, as blue as the birds in the Willow pattern, looked up

into mine as if staring out from some dim and smoky past, as if there was some recognition in their depths.

And then they died.

I wish I could say my heart was stricken, but it wasn't. I wish I could say my instinct was to run away, but that would not be true. Instead, I watched in awe, savouring every detail: the fluttering fingers, the almost imperceptible bronze metallic cloudiness that appeared on the skin, as if, before my very eyes, it were being breathed upon by death.

I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn't. Quite the contrary. This was by far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.

**What do we learn about Flavia from the language the writer uses?**

**You could focus on how she reacts to the discovery or her detective skills. Select 2 short quotes from the extract and analyse them using the PEAL method of analysis.**

## **Section B**

**Continue the story by writing the next two to three paragraphs.**

- **Try to build on the details of plot and character that are contained in the extract.**
- **Try to use a wide range of punctuation, interesting vocabulary and some imagery.**
- **Remember to check your spelling, punctuation and grammar.**