

LAERSKOOL KRUINSIG

SUBJECT : ENGLISH FAL

TIME: 35 MIN

GRADE : 7

DATE : MARCH 2018

EXAMINATOR : K. ROUX

SECTION A :

MODERATOR : 

SECTION B :

C. WOOD

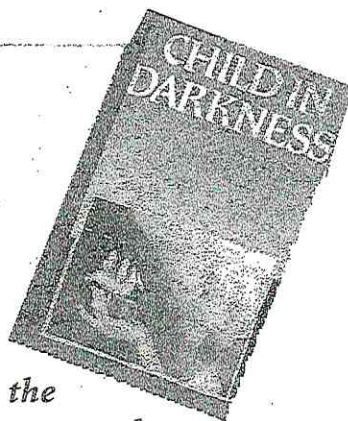
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer all the questions.
2. Write legibly.
3. Spelling is important.
4. This paper consist of 8 pages.

Stay calm and remember, we have done everything in class.

SECTION A : COMPREHENSION

From: Textures Gr. 7
An extract from: ***Child in Darkness*** by Robert Hill



Nicky discovers that there is a creature of some sort living in the boarded-up caves near his home. He enters the cave and befriends a boy his age. The cave boy is a hunchback, deathly pale, naked and has no language, because he has lived his whole life in the caves. Eventually Nicky persuades the boy to come out of the caves with him. Unfortunately Nicky's parents think that their son has been abducted and is being held in the caves ...

It was terrifying to be stumbling along in the darkness, blind and totally helpless, not knowing where I was being led. It had been bad enough before, on the way down, but now it was a thousand times worse. The hissing behind us persisted, sometimes soft, but at other times so loud I was sure they were just a matter of metres away.

Looking back on it now, I am sure they would have had no difficulty catching up with us if they had wanted to. We were moving slowly, and nothing I did would make the boy go any faster. Maybe our followers were still too nervous of me. They weren't to know that in the darkness I was blind. Possibly they thought I was still too dangerous for them to risk attacking me. Whatever the reason, they kept their distance; content, I suppose, to just follow and see that I left the cave.

So on we went, on and on. This trip seemed more strenuous somehow, even though we were going slower. I had the feeling that we were climbing gradually, slowly ascending a gentle slope, but I may have imagined it. When it's so dark, you can never be absolutely sure whether you're climbing or going downhill.

I don't know how long we'd been walking – it seemed like many hours but it may not have been that long, of course – when I sensed a change. The hissing behind us had gradually faded. They seemed to be falling back. But what really alarmed me was that the boy had been going slower and slower and now he stopped completely. What could be the reason? Were we near the entrance? I strained in an effort to hear something, but the only sounds were the quiet hissing and other faint noises coming from the creatures behind us.

"Come on," I said, gently pulling at the boy's hand. "We can't stop here. We must go further."

He whined softly, but obligingly carried on, even more hesitantly now than before. After only a few minutes he stopped again. I pulled at his hand, but this time he resisted.

"Come on," I said again, more forcefully this time, but he just whined miserably and stood his ground.

"Don't be silly," I said gently. "You can't go back. You've got to come out with me. They won't hurt you."

I pulled him forwards. At first it was difficult because in the darkness I couldn't see where we were going. I just had to move towards the sounds. And he held back, whimpering and trying to worm his way out of my grip. I was too strong for him, though, and he knew it. After a few steps he stopped resisting and meekly followed me, whining softly, pathetically.

And so we carried on.

The next thing I became aware of was that smell. It seemed to grow worse with every step we took. We must be getting near the entrance, I thought. That was where that smell had seemed to come from. It was awful, sickening, but it was also strangely comforting. It meant we were almost out.

Then I heard the quiet buzz of voices. Human voices! I could have wept I was so relieved.

The boy didn't feel the same way about them, though. Again he pulled back, whining and struggling to free himself. And again I spoke soothingly to him and pulled him forward.

It seemed to get gradually lighter as we progressed.

QUESTION 1:

1. Vocabulary: What do the following words mean?

extract : _____ (1)

persisted (par 1) : _____ (1)

2. Say whether the following statements are true/false. Then QUOTE to prove your answer.

2.1 The "creature" is actually a boy.

_____ (2)

2.2 They were moving along very quickly.

_____ (2)

3. What does the cave boy look like?

_____ (2)

4. Why do you think that Nicky said he was "blind"?

_____ (1)

5. Give an explanation as to why you think it is a very big cave.

_____ (1)

TOTAL : 10

From the author

When I was a teacher in Westville I read a lot to my class. It occurred to me how lucky authors were to be able to give so much enjoyment to people. And I decided to write a story myself.

But it isn't so easy to write a story, as I soon discovered. I have a whole drawer of first chapters at home, of stories which bored me before I had even written them. One night, my mind wandered until somehow I arrived at the idea of something in the darkness of a cave. The cave would have to be blocked off, of course, to prevent this "something" from coming out. I sat down and started writing. At that stage I did not know what was in the cave. I invented Nicholas, the "hero" of the story, and let him discover it for me.

I have always been fascinated by caves and by the contrast between the darkness, peace and seclusion of a cave, and real life which continues in the light outside. Although Nicholas was relieved to be able to see again, I wanted him to experience something of the shock of emerging into the light. For this reason I made the people who were waiting for him more unpleasant, perhaps, than they needed to be.

Another thing I wanted to show is how, when we are confronted by tragedy, we are so often surrounded by people insisting on different courses of action. We are the only ones who really see what is happening, but we are frustrated by other people and their reactions.

If I ever did come upon someone living like this in total darkness, I hope I would be able to relate to him as bravely as Nicholas does.

Robert Hill

1. What does an author do? Quote from the passage to prove your answer.

(2)

2. Who is the main character of this story?

(1)

3. Do you think that this author is interested in caves? How do you know this?

(2)

4. He says, "I have a whole drawer of first chapters at home, ..."
What do you think he means by this?

(2)

5. What was his previous occupation and do you think it helped him be a better author? Explain why you think so.

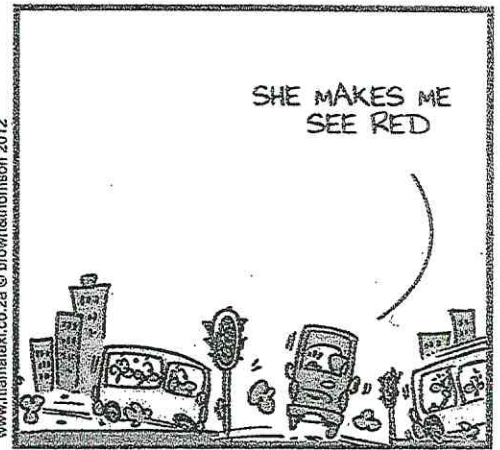
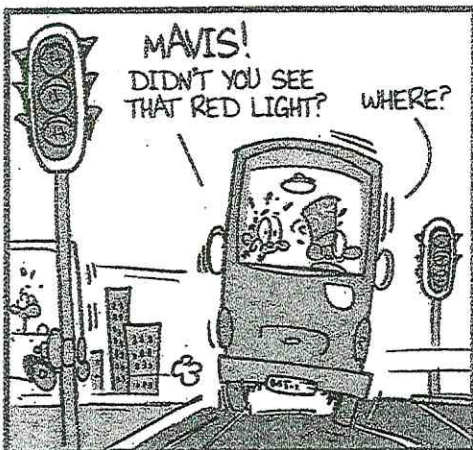
(3)

Total : 10

QUESTION 2: (Visual)

Mama Taxi™

(words by) Deni Brown (pictures by) Gavin Thomson



1. How many frames are there in this cartoon? _____ (1)
2. Who is the cartoonist? _____ (1)
3. How does Mavis feel in frame 2?
_____ (1)
4. How would you feel in frame 3?
_____ (1)
5. What punctuation marks are missing from the term “mother in law”?
Also insert the correct punctuation.
_____ (2)
6. What is the setting of this cartoon?
_____ (1)
7. What is the conflict (problem) in this cartoon?

_____ (1)
8. Does Mavis mean she “sees red” when she sees her “mother in law”?
What does it really mean?
_____ (2)

Total : 10

TOTAL : 30

SECTION B : LANGUAGE

1. Read the following sentence and then identify the nouns.

Nicky discovers that there is a creature of some sort living in the boarded-up caves near his home.

Nicky : _____

Creature : _____

(2)

Read the following sentence and find a pronoun.

Nicky's parents think that their son has been abducted.

Pronoun : _____ (1)

2. **Nicky discovers that there is a creature.** Change the above sentence to a question.

_____ (2)

3. Underline the correct form of the verb in the following sentence.

- a) **The boy hides / hid in the cave for ages.**
- b) **Nicky believes / believed there is a creature.** (2)

4. Change the words in brackets to a suitable pronoun.

(The boy in the cave) was nervous to exit the cave.

_____ (1)

5. The boy in the cave was nervous.

Change the word nervous to an abstract nouns by adding one of the following:

-ness or -ment or -tion _____ (1)

6. Edit the following sentences by:

- adding the correct punctuation.
- identifying one spelling error.

a) **stop or ill shoot! he bellowed**

b) **I lay their helpless**

6 + 2 = (3)

7. Match column B to column A so that the meaning is clear.

COLUMN A	ANSWER	COLUMN B
1. from the frying pan into the fire		a) very quick
2. in next to no time		b) to feel ill
3. to feel off colour		c) from bad to worse
		d) very easy
		e) to die

(3)

8. Fill in the correct word and then say what type of noun it is.

a _____ of friends = _____ noun. (2)

9. Supply the correct plurals for:

a) cave : _____

b) cliff : _____ (2)

10. Change the sentence by starting with Last week. (There are 2 changes.)

He enters the cave and befriends a boy his age.

_____ (1)

TOTAL : 20