

WGHS



ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

11+

Reading Paper

1 Hour

Read the passage below carefully. Then answer the questions on the back page.

In this passage Clarry, her brother Peter, and her cousin Rupert are spending the summer holidays with their grandparents in Cornwall. Rupert has promised to teach Clarry to swim, as Peter has broken his leg.

Clarry cheered up tremendously, pulled a dress on top of the bathing suit, hugged Peter goodbye and scampered after Rupert so quickly that in less than twenty minutes they were at the cliff edge, looking down.	
‘Now what?’ asked Clarry.	
‘Jump!’	5
‘Straight in, not round by the rocks?’	
‘No, no, of course not! You said you were tired of paddling!’	
‘Is that what you did the first time you went swimming? Jumped straight in?’	
‘Yes. Straight in, and no screaming at the cold or else detention in the gym!’	10
‘And then you just started swimming, as easily as that?’	
‘Of course,’ said Rupert, and he honestly believed it was true.	
‘It’s not far down, is it?’	
‘Hardly a step,’ said Rupert. ‘In you’ll go, and you’ll come up swimming like a duckling. Even Pete did. I’ll count you in, shall I?’	15
Clarry wavered on the brink, nearly overbalancing.	
‘Three...two...Don’t try diving. Diving needs practice. Do it the safe way, feet first, just to start with. Now then: one!’	
<i>The safe way</i> , Rupert had said, and Clarry shut her eyes, stepped into nothingness, flailed in sudden panic, and then found herself plunging down, and down, below the slapping green waves, into such coldness, that she gasped in great panicky gulps, not of air, but of salt water.	20
Everything ended then, and the whole warm lovely world gone in a moment. There was no direction to reach for, and no air to breathe.	25
There was an icy grip, disbelief, and then blackness.	
Up above, Rupert, smiling, waited for her to bob up.	
This did not happen. Nothing happened. The green glass sea swung and rippled, quite undisturbed. Rupert shaded his eyes and craned sideways to see if Clarry was climbing up by the rocks and, as he did so, he caught sight of a small black shadow rocking in the depths.	30
Sheet-lightning fear flashed from the water, blinding Rupert as he dived. Even so, he found her, weightless as a shadow, dragged her to the surface, towed her to the rocks, rolled her over and hit her sharply between her shoulders.	35
Water poured from Clarry in streams and rivers and fountains. She was fish cold and grey-granite pale.	
‘Clarry!’ bellowed Rupert, and turned her upside down and shook her. She retched and came alive, but her eyes didn’t open.	
<i>Passage continues on next page</i>	
Rupert picked her up, hung her over his shoulder, staggered across the rocks, up the steep, sandy path, and lowered her on to the turf. He wrapped his shirt round her, rubbed her back and shouted at her. When he propped	40

her up, she slid sideways, heavy now, and limp as a jellyfish. 'Oh God, Clarry,' moaned Rupert, and saw her reach out a hand to comfort him.	
After a few minutes, she began shaking and then crying silently, yet more salt water pouring down her cold cheeks.	45
'Why didn't you swim?' demanded Rupert, suddenly angry, but she only shivered and cried even more.	
'Poor little duckling,' said Rupert, and at last Clarry sat up and wiped her eyes.	50
It took him ages to get her home. She kept stopping to lean on things. When they finally arrived, he left her in the hall and knocked on the sitting-room door.	
This time the grandparents were not so calm as usual. Twice in one summer was too much. First Peter, now this. It beggared belief. Every year their grandchildren were met at the station, provided with beds and catered for with astonishing quantities of food. There was sea and moorland, a town, a garden and a pony. What more would be expected? Where was their common sense? Why on earth couldn't Rupert be trusted to take care of Clarry?	55
'It wasn't his fault,' croaked Clarry, the first words she had spoken.	
'Never heard such nonsense!' growled her grandfather and Rupert was sent off to fetch the doctor, while Clarry was hustled up to bed, piled with blankets and scolded.	60
The doctor arrived, with Rupert in tow. Clarry fell unhelpfully asleep in the middle of him listening to her lungs. She slept for hours and hours. When she woke up her grandmother was sitting beside her looking terribly bored.	65
'I'm sorry,' said Clarry.	
Her grandmother looked down at her.	
'I shouldn't have jumped. I guessed that really. I just thought...I thought...'	70
'Rupert must know best,' finished her grandmother.	
Clarry nodded.	
<i>Now you know he doesn't,</i> said her grandmother, not in words, but with an eloquent sniff.	

From *The Skylarks' War*, by Hilary McKay

Turn over for the questions

Reading questions

- Answer all the questions below.
- Some questions ask you directly just to write down a word.
- When a question asks you to 'explain', write your answer in full sentences.
- Number your answers.
- The total number of marks available is 25 marks

1. Sum up how Rupert teaches Clarry to swim. (1 mark)

2. Explain what Rupert means when he says that Clarry will 'come up swimming *like a duckling*' (lines 15-16). (1 mark)

3. Line 17 says 'Clarry wavered on the brink, nearly overbalancing'. Write down one other word which means the same as 'wavered' and could replace 'wavered' in this sentence. (1 mark)

4. In lines 20-26 the writer describes what it is like to jump into very cold water. She says that Clarry 'gasp(ed) in great panicky gulps'. Choose one word or technique used in this quotation that you think best shows the effect of the cold water on Clarry. Explain in detail what the word or technique shows about the shock of cold water. (3 marks).

5. In line 36, the writer says that, 'Water poured from Clarry in streams and rivers and fountains.' Explain what the writer means. (1 mark)

6. In line 43, the writer describes Clarry as 'as limp as a jellyfish'. Explain what the writer means. (1 mark)

7. Read lines 32-45 again.

Example: The writer uses the metaphor 'Sheet-lightning fear' to describe the way terror suddenly strikes Rupert like a lightning bolt because he suddenly realises Clarry is in danger.

Write about one other way the writer shows Rupert's fear in lines 32-45, using the example above as a model for your answer. (3 marks)

8. Think about lines 1-51. How do Rupert's feelings change over this part of the passage? (3 marks)

9. Look at lines 59-71. Using your own words, explain what the grandparents feel about the children, and how you can tell this. (3 marks)

10. Think about the passage as a whole. How would you describe the relationship between Clarry and her cousin Rupert? In your answer, use evidence from the passage to back up your points. (6 marks)

11. 'swimming *like a duckling*' and 'as limp as a jellyfish' are similes. 'Sheet-lightning fear' is a metaphor. Find and write down two other similes or metaphors from the passage. Label each example clearly 'simile' or 'metaphor'. (2 marks)

Total: 25 marks

End of questions