



# 11+ Practice Papers

## 11+ Comprehension and Creative Writing (Sample Paper) MARK SCHEME

## **SECTION A: READING & COMPREHENSION**

- [1]** From paragraph 1, list two things that the writer describes *inside* the room.  
(2 MARKS)

1. CANDLE – the candle is specifically described as ‘nearly burnt out’ (line 4), and the reader is also given information that its flame gave off a ‘half-extinguished light’ (line 5).
2. THE CREATURE – the reader is given details about creature’s ‘dull yellow eye’ (line 5), how it was breathing, and that its limbs were moving in a ‘convulsive’ manner (line 6).

**2 marks altogether. 1 mark** awarded for **each correct answer**. *The student does not have to explain their answer. The idea here is that they understand what the question is specifically asking them for.*

NB: *These were the only two things that Shelly specifically **describes inside**. The ‘instruments of life’ (line 2) are ambiguous to the reader based on this extract alone, hence do not count as an answer.*

- [2]** Explain the narrator’s possible emotions towards the creature’s appearance in paragraph 2. Support your answer with evidence from the text.  
(3 MARKS)

**Key words to describe the narrator’s feelings:** shaken, horrified, disappointed, shocked, traumatised, upset, dismayed etc. *(or any other relevant answer)*

**Possible evidence/quotes to support the above:**

‘How can I describe my emotions at this *catastrophe*...’ – the word ‘catastrophe’ suggests that the narrator considers this sudden event as a complete disaster.

Repeating the use of the word ‘*Beautiful!*’ and exclaiming ‘*Great God!*’ indicates that the distress the narrator is experiencing, comes from a feeling of utter devastation and disbelief.

‘...how delineate *the wretch* with such *infinite pains* and care I had endeavoured to form?’ – the narrator calls the creature a ‘wretch’ which suggests that he is disappointed in his creation. The narrator expresses he went through ‘infinite pains’ to form this creature, and based on his reaction, there sounds like he is possibly feeling immense regret and dissatisfaction.

‘...these luxuriances only formed a more *horrid* contrast with his watery eyes...’ – as the narrator describes the creature’s physical appearance, he mentions that he picked out the best features, however those ‘luxuriances’ appeared to have provided an undesired outcome, leading to the narrator feeling discontent.

*(or any other relevant answer)*

**3 marks** to only be awarded if the student *identifies a possible feeling [1], and supports it by choosing [1] and explaining [1]* a relevant piece of evidence from paragraph 2.

- [3]** a) For approximately how long had the narrator been working on the creature for?  
**(1 MARK)**

2 years (*line 15*).

- b) What had he deprived himself of by doing so?

**(2 MARKS)**

Rest and health (*line 16*).

**3 marks altogether. 1 mark** awarded for **each** correct answer.

NB: *the student does **not** have to identify the line number.*

- [4]** Identify an onomatopoeia from the text, and explain its effectiveness.  
**(2 MARKS)**

1. Pattered (line 4) – by describing how the rain ‘pattered’ against the window, the reader can imagine the scene more vividly, as if we can hear the raindrops too. This allows the reader to experience the events as though we are in the room with the narrator. (*or any other relevant answer*)
2. Chattered (line 28) – by describing how the narrator’s teeth ‘chattered’, the reader is engaged with the senses and the writing effectively portrays the dangerous atmosphere and the narrator’s fright, without the need of further description. (*or any other relevant answer*)

**2 marks** to be awarded for identifying an onomatopoeia [1], and for explaining its effectiveness [1].

NB: *Onomatopoeia - words that imitate the sound they denote.*

- [5]** Write a new sentence for each of the following three words to show that you understand their meaning, or explain what these words mean as they are used in the text.

**(3 MARKS)**

- a) *Ardour (line 16)*

**Meaning:** Ardour refers to enthusiasm or passion. (*or any other relevant answer*)

**OR**

**Sentence:** Her eyes were bright with ardour. (*or any other relevant answer*)

b) *Traversing* (line 19)

**Meaning:** Traversing means to travel. (*or any other relevant answer*)

**OR**

**Sentence:** He was traversing through the forest. (*or any other relevant answer*)

c) *Languor* (line 43)

**Meaning:** Languor refers to tiredness or weariness. (*or any other relevant answer*)

**OR**

**Sentence:** Languor at last overcame her, and she fell into gentle slumber.

(*or any other relevant answer*)

**3 marks altogether. 1 mark** to be awarded for **each** correct answer.

**[6]** Who did the narrator see in his dreams?

**(2 MARKS)**

1. ELIZABETH (line 23) – we know this as the narrator mentions he ‘imprinted’ a kiss on her lips (line 24), before the figure changed to;
2. HIS DECEASED MOTHER (line 26) – the narrator describes holding her corpse in his arms.

**1 mark** awarded for each correct answer. *The student does not have to explain their answer. The idea here is that they understand what the question is specifically asking them for.*

**[7]** What word does the narrator use throughout the text, when referring to the creature?

**(1 MARK)**

**‘WRETCH’**

The word ‘wretch’ is repeatedly used by the narrator throughout the extract, when referring to the creature:

‘...how delineate the wretch....’ (line 7)

‘....I beheld the wretch...’ (line 30)

‘...so hideous as that wretch...’ (line 39)

**1 mark** awarded for correct answer. *The student does not have to explain their answer.*

- [8]** In your own words, explain why you think the narrator repeatedly uses that word when referring to the creature?

**(2 MARKS)**

**Meaning:** The term wretch is used to address or describe a despicable or contemptible person.

**Sample answer:** 'The narrator repeatedly calls the creature a 'wretch' because of his obvious distaste in him. He finds the creature ugly and horrifying, which would explain why the narrator uses such a vulgar/offensive term to call him by. In a way the narrator feels that he has created a monster, and could be venting his hatred and disappointment in himself, towards the creature.'

*(or any other relevant answer)*

**2 marks** to only be awarded if the student gives a *valid argument using their own words*.

**1 mark** may be awarded if the student gives the meaning of the word.

NB: *The idea here is to see how much **understanding** the student has of the extract.*

- [9]** In your own words, explain the narrator's physical and mental state in paragraph 5.

**(3 MARKS)**

**Key words to describe the narrator's physical and mental state:** tired, weak, fatigued, exhausted, drained, stressed, broken, disappointed, uncertain, lost etc. *(or any other relevant answer)*

**Sample answer:** 'The narrator appears to be in an exhausted state, both physically and mentally. This could be because he spent the night trying to get away from the creature, and at the same time contemplating how his dream seemed to have turned into a literal nightmare. He is clearly disturbed by the chaos that has suddenly come alive, and it has taken a toll on his mental state.'

*(or any other relevant answer)*

**3 marks** to only be awarded if the student gives a *valid argument using their own words*.

NB: *The idea here is to see how much **understanding** the student has of the extract.*

**[10]** How does the writer effectively present the narrator's plight and displeasure throughout the entire text? Use evidence from the text to support your answers.  
**(5 MARKS)**

- Use of pathetic fallacy/personification (line 4) – the **weather** has been used to reflect the narrator's **displeasure**, as the 'rain pattered dismally' presents a scene involving despair.
- Narrative tone – the narrative tone used throughout the extract is negative and melancholy, which emphasizes the grief the narrator is feeling. For example, the writer effectively uses adjectives such as, 'dreary', 'horrid' and 'miserable' among others in the extract, which accounts for an overall depressing use of language.
- Situational Irony/Irony – the writer's use of irony in the extract is effective in highlighting how much anguish the narrator is feeling, when what he expected of 'the accomplishment' of his 'toils' to be, turned out to be the polar opposite. For example, this turmoil is expressed by the narrator when he says, 'I had desired it ... disgust filled my heart.' (line 16). The reader is effectively made very aware of how the narrator's situation went awry.

*(or any other relevant answers)*

**5 marks** to only be awarded if the student *identifies or clearly explains more than one specific writing feature* [2]\*, shows *clear understanding of how the writer has presented the narrator's displeasure* [2]\*, and *use relevant quotations* from the extract to *support their answers* [1]\*.

\* Marks given may vary depending on what is written.

NB: *The idea here is to see how much **understanding** the student has of the extract, and to see if they are able to **identify** and **explain** the use of literary devices.*

**[11]** Write a *synonym* for each of the following words:

**(2 MARKS)**

a) Horror - **fear, terror, dread, fright, dismay, abhorrence etc.**

*(or any other relevant answer)*

b) Hideous – **ugly, revolting, repugnant, repulsive, unsightly, gruesome etc.**

*(or any other relevant answer)*

**2 marks altogether. 1 mark** awarded for **each correct answer**.

NB: *Synonym: a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase.*

**[12]** Find two quotations from the text that show the narrator had a difficult night.  
**(2 MARKS)**

- 'With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, collected the instruments of life around me...' (line 1)
- 'How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form?' (line 7)
- 'I rushed out of the room, continued a long time traversing my bed chamber, unable to compose my mind to sleep.' (line 19)
- 'But it was in vain: I slept, indeed, but I was disturbed by the wildest dreams.' (line 22)
- 'I started from my sleep with horror; a cold dew covered my forehead, my teeth chattered, and every limb became convulsed...' (line 27)
- 'I took refuge in the courtyard belonging to the house which I inhabited; where I remained during the rest of the night, walking up and down in the greatest agitation...' (line 34)
- 'I passed the night wretchedly.' (line 41)
- 'I nearly sank to the ground through languor and extreme weakness.' (line 43)

*(or any other relevant answer)*

**2 marks altogether. 1 mark awarded for each correct answer.**

NB: The idea here is to see if the student can correctly select **relevant quotations** from the extract, **directly related to the question**. The student does **not** have to identify the line number.

## **SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING**

NB: *The following mark scheme has been broken down into specific skills in order to provide a checklist to work on.*

### **Content (6 MARKS)**

- *Writing is assuredly matched to the task. [2]*
- *Writing sustains the reader's interest throughout. [2]*
- *Content demonstrates a range of complex and interesting ideas. [2]*

### **Organisation (6 MARKS)**

- *Writing follows a clear and deliberate structure. If the piece is a narrative, it should contain a clear narrative arc with a narrative hook, rising tension, a climax and a resolution. Descriptive and persuasive pieces should also have a strong sense of organisation. [2]*
- *Writing makes deliberate and effective use of paragraphs to aid coherence and cohesion. [2]*
- *A range of discourse markers (linking words and phrases) are seamlessly integrated into the piece to aid coherence and cohesion. [2]*

### **Register (6 MARKS)**

- *Writing is appropriately formal, using standard English throughout. [2]*
- *Ambitious vocabulary is used appropriately for the context. [2]*
- *Writing demonstrates command of a range of complex sentence structures. [2]*

### **Language techniques (6 MARKS)**

- *Writing makes effective use of a range of appropriate language techniques. Descriptive and narrative pieces make apt and original use of figurative and sensory language etc. Persuasive pieces demonstrate a sophisticated grasp of rhetorical techniques such as questions, repetition, hyperbole, contrast etc. [6]*

### **Technical accuracy and presentation (6 MARKS)**

- *Sentence demarcation is consistently secure, and a range of ambitious punctuation (: ; ") is used, mostly with success. [2]*
- *Complex and irregular words are spelt accurately with only rare errors. [2]*
- *Handwriting is legible throughout, and neat presentation contributes to an impressive piece of work. [2]*

