

READING PASSAGE

In this story the boy, Tom, is sent to stay with his aunt and uncle who live in an old house. In this passage Tom discovers, in the middle of the night, that he can travel back in time and see the house and garden as it was in the past.

He came out upon the lawn again. Here were the flower-beds - the crescent shaped corner-beds with the hyacinths, among which an early bee was already working. The hyacinths reminded Tom of his Aunt Gwen, but no longer with **resentment**. She knew nothing – poor thing! – and could be
5 blamed for nothing, after all.

At the verge of the lawn, Tom stopped **abruptly**. On the grey-green of the dewed grass were two clearly defined patches of darker green: footprints. Feet had walked on to the lawn and stood there; then they had turned back and walked off again. How long ago? Surely since Tom had entered the
10 garden. 'I'm sure they weren't here when I came out. Certain.'

How long had whoever it was stood there, and why? He or she had faced the line of yew-trees opposite; and that thought made Tom uneasy. When he had passed behind those trees and seen the flick-flick-flick of the house between
15 them, had someone stood on the lawn watching the flick-flick-flick of Tom as he went? Tom looked at the house, letting his eye go from window to window. Had someone **drawn** out of sight at an upper window? No, no: now he was just imagining things.

Tom's nerves were on edge, and he actually jumped when he heard a noise
20 from up the garden. It was the sound of a door opening. He took cover at once, and then worked his way towards the sound. Someone had come through the door in the sundial path – a man with a wheelbarrow.

Tom took a moment to realize that this must be a gardener, and that he was doing nothing more **sinister** than beginning a day's work. He was whistling;
25 and now Tom became aware that for some time the garden had been filling

with sounds - the sound of birds, the sound of leaves moving in morning winds, and all the minute living, breathing sounds of trees and bushes and plants and insects. The sun's rays gleamed over all the garden, warming it to life and sucking up the drenching dew; the sundial's iron finger threw a
30 shadow at last, and told the time. Day was beginning, and Tom was afraid of being caught in a daytime not his own. Once again he crossed the lawn, this time with intent to get back into the house and upstairs to bed - if, indeed, his own room and bed were still there. He could see that the hall of the house was furnished with all the strange objects he had seen last night; the morning
35 sunshine lit them clearly. They looked **forbiddingly** real.

Fear made him hurry now; yet, even so, he paused on the threshold of the house and turned back to look at the footprints on the grass: they were still plainly visible, although the warmth of the rising sun was beginning to blur
40 their edges. (It did not strike him as odd that his own footsteps, which had crossed the lawn again and again, had left no similar trace.)

END OF READING PASSAGE

SECTION A: READING

You are advised to spend 30 minutes on Section A. First, please read the passage carefully and then answer ALL the questions in Section A.

1. List 3 different things which are in the garden in paragraph 1. [3 marks]

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2. List 4 things Tom wonders about when he sees the footprints in lines 6-15. [4 marks]

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3. In lines 23 - 30, Tom realises that it is morning. Explain 2 things he hears and 2 things he sees that **prove** to him it is the morning now. [4 marks]

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4. What 2 things is Tom worried about as he returns to the house and what makes him think this? Explain your answer fully in your own words.

[3 marks]

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5. In your own words explain what each of these words mean in the passage:

a) **resentment** (line 4)

[2 marks]

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b) **abruptly** (line 6)

[2 marks]

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c) **drawn** (line 17) [2 marks]

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d) **sinister** (line 24) [2 marks]

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e) **forbiddingly** (line 35) [2 marks]

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6. Explain the effect of the description in bold (from line 14):

*“When he had passed behind those trees and seen **the flick-flick-flick of the house** between them,”* [3 marks]

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7. Explain 2 ways in which the writer uses language effectively in the following description (from lines 28-29):

“The sun’s rays gleamed over all the garden, warming it to life and sucking up the drenching dew;” [3 marks]

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8. Using your own words in two sentences, explain what sort of boy you think Tom is and why. [4 marks]

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9. How does the author make the passage exciting for the reader? You can write about words/phrases, Tom's voice in the story and sentence lengths and sentence types. [8 marks]

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10. Reread the last paragraph in the passage. Imagine you are Tom later that day and write out your thoughts and fears about your time travel experience.
(Write up to 100 words.) [8 marks]

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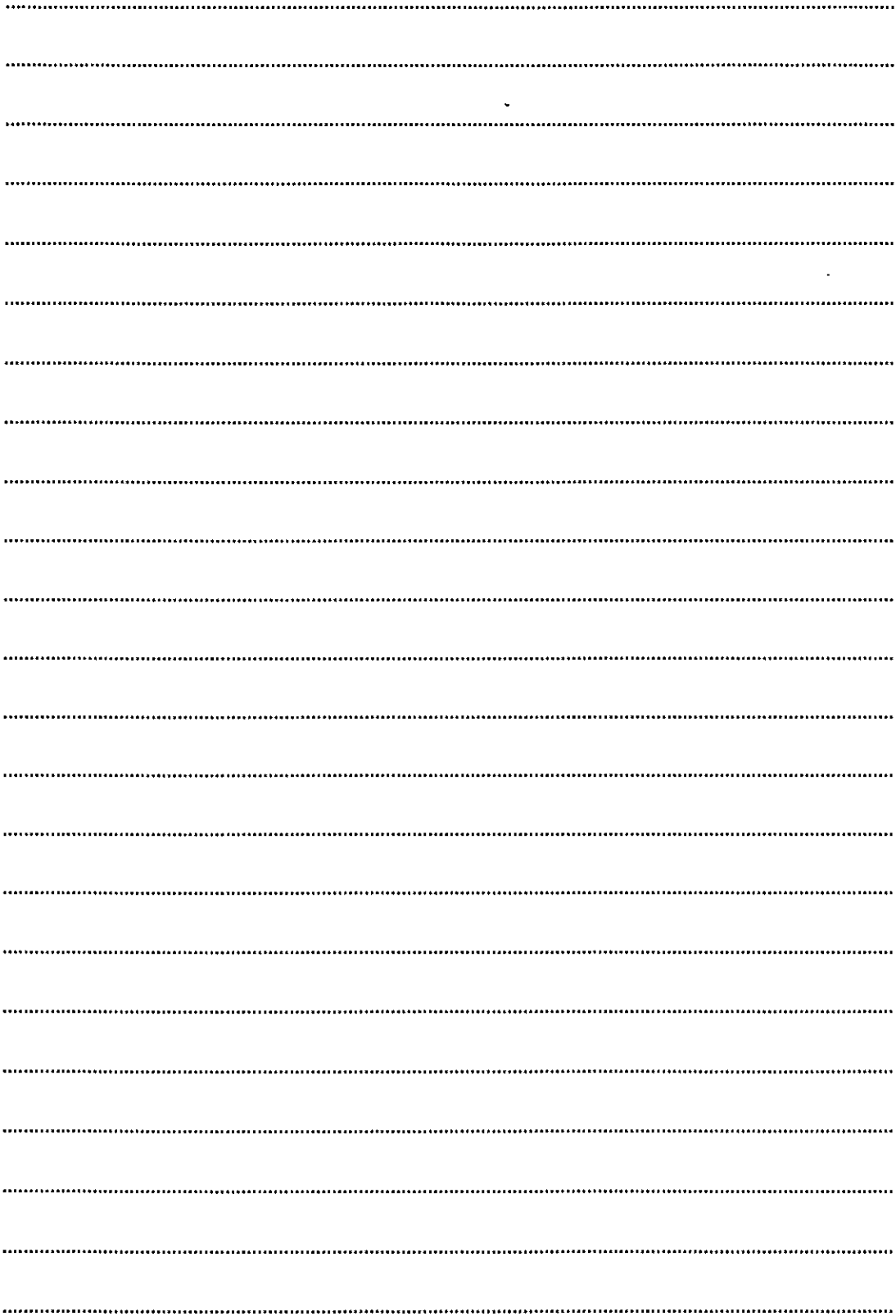
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END OF SECTION A

[Section A = 50 marks]

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice.



END OF PAPER

