



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2007

ENGLISH

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions in the spaces

Outside, it was raining. There was still a week of the holidays. Kate, his sister, was out at a friend's house. Peter had spent the afternoon eating chocolate. Now he felt sick and bored, a perfect combination for a wet afternoon. He wandered upstairs towards his bedroom but stopped outside Kate's bedroom door. For years they had shared the room but now he had his own space. He'd been back in Kate's room hundreds of times before, of course, but never alone. He stepped inside.

He stood in the centre of the room, watched, as usual, by the dolls. He felt peculiar, and everything looked different. The room was bigger, and he had never noticed before how the floor sloped. There seemed to be more dolls than ever with their glassy stares, and as he went down the slope towards his old bed, he thought he heard a sound, a rustling. He thought he saw something move, but when he turned, everything was still.

He sat on the bed and thought back over the old days when he had slept here. He'd been just a kid then. Nine! What would he have known? If only his ten-year-old self could go back and tell that innocent fool what was what. When you got to ten, you began to see the whole picture, how things connected, how things worked ... an overview ...

Peter was so intent on trying to remember his ignorant younger self of six months before that he did not notice the figure making its way across the carpet towards him. When he did, he gave a shout of surprise and scrambled right on to the bed, and drew his knees up. Coming towards him at an awkward but steady pace was the Bad Doll. It had taken a paintbrush from Kate's desk to use as a crutch. It hobbled across the room with bad-tempered gasps, and it was muttering swear words that even a bad doll should not use. It stopped by the bed post to get its breath. Peter was surprised to notice how sweaty its forehead and upper lip were. The Bad Doll leaned the paintbrush against the bed and drew its only forearm across its face. And then, with a quick glance at Peter, and taking a deep breath, the Bad Doll snatched up its crutch and set about climbing on to the bed.

Scrambling up three times your own height with only one arm and a leg takes patience and strength. The Bad Doll had little of either. Its little pink body quivered with the effort and strain as it hung half-way up the post, looking for leverage for its paintbrush. The gasps and grunts became louder and more piteous. Slowly the head, sweatier than ever, rose into Peter's view. He could easily have reached over and lifted the creature onto the bed. And just as easily, he could have swatted it to the floor. But he did nothing. It was all too interesting. He wanted to see what happened. As the Bad Doll inched its way up with cries of 'Oh blast and hell's teeth!' and 'Damnation take the grit!' and 'Filthy custard!' Peter became aware that the head of every doll in the room was turned in his direction. Pure blue eyes blazed wider than ever, and there was a soft whispering of *sibilants* like water tumbling over rocks, a sound which gathered into a murmur, and then a torrent as excitement swept through five dozen spectators.

'He's doing it!' Peter heard one of them call.

Sibilants hissing sounds

Answer in full sentences, giving evidence from the passage to support your answers.

1. What TWO strange events happen whilst Peter is in his sister's bedroom? (2 marks)

2. Write down TWO facts that you learn about Peter. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Peter goes into his sister's bedroom? Select some words from the story to prove what you say. (2 marks)

4. Reread the following extract from the end of the passage:

“...there was a soft whispering of sibilants like water tumbling over rocks, a sound which gathered into a murmur, and then a torrent as excitement swept through five dozen spectators.”

Look at the word choices and explain how the writer describes the sound.

Refer to: a. the comparison being made b. how the sound changes (3 marks)

5. Suggest TWO feelings the writer wants us to have about the doll. In your answer you should use words from the story to prove what you say. (2 marks)

The writer wants us to feel _____

He also makes us feel _____

6. In this question you are going to explain the feelings that words have on the reader. You should read the selected words carefully and try to think of two different feelings it makes you have, then complete the following table.

The phrase "glassy stares" makes the reader feel _____ because _____

It also suggests the idea of _____

The phrase "blue eyes blazed" makes the reader feel _____ because _____

It also suggests the idea of _____

(6 marks)

7. Do you think that this is more likely to be a fantasy or horror story? Give reasons for your answer. (4 marks)

8. Suggest different ideas that the writer might be trying to teach us with his story. Give reasons for your opinions. (4 marks)

Choose **ONE** of the following questions to answer. You should spend no more than five minutes planning the story, about twenty minutes writing and leave some time at the end to check the accuracy of your work.

EITHER

1. Continue the story of the bad doll beginning with the sentence:
"He's doing it!" Peter heard one of them call.

OR

2. Write a story that begins with the picture below. You may use the words above the picture if you wish. You do not need to finish the story.

Archie Smith, Boy Wonder

A tiny voice asked, "Is this the one?"

