SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

English Paper 2
Comprehension
2005
11+ Entrance Paper

Time allowed: 1 hour 10 minutes
The Way Through the Woods

By Rudyard Kipling

They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,
(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few.)
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods...
But there is no road through the woods.
Think carefully before writing about these questions.

Write in full sentences.

You may wish to write two or three sentences to answer questions worth more than 3 marks.

You may quote from the text to help your answer.

1. What was “shut”? [1 mark].

2. What was in the wood before the trees were planted? [1 mark].

3. What does “cantering” mean? [3 marks].

4. Name the three animals Kipling writes about. [4 marks].

5. Why are the animals in the woods unafraid of men? [3 marks].

6. List three words that describe movement in this poem. [3 marks].

7. Is this a rhyming poem? [3 marks].

8. Who might “they” be (lines 1 and 6)? [5 marks].

9. Why do you think the wildlife in the wood is described in such detail? [5 marks].

10. Explain why the words “through the woods” are repeated five times in this poem? [5 marks].

11. Explain why you like or do not like this poem. Write three to five sentences. It will help to write about the images and the language of the poem. [7 marks].

40 marks available in total
Read the following passage from a new novel called:

‘Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society’
by Adeline Yen Mah

Chapter One

The Boy Acrobats

It was a ______ afternoon in early spring when I set off after school to Big Aunt's place for my daily ______ lesson. I ______ thinking of a kung fu novel I was ______ about a warrior monk with an iron hand as I hopped off the tram near the Du Mei Gardens, opposite my aunt's apartment.

The sounds of a ________ drifted on the air with the heady fragrance ________ blossoms, and suddenly I saw three ______ wearing colourful satin ________ with matching caps of red, blue and green, rounding a rhododendron bush into the park. I ______ Big Aunt would worry if I was ______, but I couldn't resist following them.

Write out the paragraphs neatly filling-in the gaps with words from the list below.

knew English was bamboo flute boys
sunny late reading of costumes

Make sure you write neatly!

10 marks available for this question.

Total for paper = 50 marks