

**WITHINGTON GIRLS'**

**SCHOOL**

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

**2023**

**ENGLISH**

Time: 60 minutes

**Read the following passage very carefully and then answer the questions which follow.**

***This is an extract from Susan Hill's ghost story The Woman in Black. In this passage the narrator, Arthur Kipps, is staying in a deserted house called Eel Marsh House in the middle of a marsh. He has his dog with him who is called Spider.***

Spider was at the door, growling the same, low growl of the previous night. I looked round at her and saw that her hackles were up. For a moment I sat, too terrified to move. Then I recalled my decision to seek out the ghosts of Eel Marsh House and confront them, for I was sure- or I had been sure, in the hours of daylight- that the harder I ran away from those  
5 things, the closer they would come after me and dog my heels, and the greater would be their power to disturb me. And so, I laid down the papers, got to my feet and went quietly to open the door of the small parlour in which I had been sitting.

10 At once, Spider shot out of the room as though after a hare and made for the staircase, still growling. I heard her scurry along the passage above and then stop. She had gone to the locked door and even from below I could hear it again, the odd, faint, rhythmic noise- bump bump, pause, bump bump, pause, bump bump . .

15 Determined to break in if I possibly could, and to identify the noise and whatever was making it, I went into the kitchen and scullery, in search of a strong hammer or chisel or other forcing tool. But, not finding anything there and remembering that there was a wood axe in the outhouse where the fuel was stored, I opened the back door and, taking my torch with me, stepped outside.

20 There was still a mist and a drizzling dampness in the air, though nothing like the dense, swirling fog of the night when I had crossed the causeway path. But it was pitch dark: there was neither moonlight nor any stars visible and I stumbled about on my way to the shed in spite of the beam from my torch. It was when I had located the axe and was making my way  
25 back to the house that I heard the noise and, when I heard it, so close that I thought it was only a few yards from the house, turned back, instead of going on, walked quickly around to the front door, expecting to greet a visitor.

30 As I came onto the gravel, I shone my torch out into the darkness in the direction of the causeway path. It was from there that the clip-clop of the pony's hooves and the rumbling and creaking of the trap were coming. But I could see nothing. And then, with an awful cry of realization, I knew. There was no visitor- or at least no real, human visitor- no Keckwick. The noise was beginning to come from a different direction now, as the pony and trap left the causeway and struck off across the open marsh.

35 I stood, hideously afraid, straining into the murky, misty distance with my ears, to try and detect any difference between this sound and that of a real vehicle. But there was none. If I could have run out of there, seen my way, I must surely have been able to reach it, climb up onto it, challenge its driver. As it was, I could do nothing, but stand, stand as still and stiff as a  
40 post, rigid with fear and yet inwardly in a turmoil of nervous apprehension and imaginings and responses.

## Comprehension

Spend about 40 minutes on this section

Please circle the correct answer. If you change your mind, put a clear cross (X) through the wrong answer and circle your new choice.

1. What mood is Spider in at the start of the passage? **(1 mark)**
  - a. Sleepy
  - b. Confused
  - c. Scared
  - d. Happy
  
2. What mood is the narrator in at the very start of the passage? **(1 mark)**
  - a. Thoughtful
  - b. Puzzled
  - c. Afraid
  - d. Happy
  
3. How does the narrator's mood change between lines 1 and 18? **(1 mark)**
  - a. He becomes more certain about his decision
  - b. He gets more afraid
  - c. He stops worrying
  - d. He begins to feel sick
  
4. What is the narrator planning to do in Eel Marsh House on line 3? **(1 mark)**
  - a. Find the ghosts haunting the house
  - b. Try to get some sleep
  - c. Run away
  - d. Do some work
  
5. What does the phrase "dog my heels" mean on line 5? **(1 mark)**
  - a. To pursue
  - b. To act like a dog
  - c. To attack
  - d. To run away
  
6. What was the writer doing before Spider's growling disturbed him? **(1 mark)**
  - a. Reading
  - b. Sleeping
  - c. Worrying
  - d. It doesn't tell us
  
7. Why do you think Spider leaves the room so quickly? **(1 mark)**
  - a. She is chasing a hare
  - b. She wants her dinner
  - c. She is frightened
  - d. She can hear a strange noise

8. Which word indicates that the noises the narrator can hear are in a regular pattern? **(1 mark)**
- Bump
  - Odd
  - Faint
  - Rhythmic
9. Where does the narrator want to break in to? **(1 mark)**
- The kitchen
  - The scullery
  - The outhouse
  - The locked door
10. What is the weather like on line 20? **(1 mark)**
- Very foggy
  - Raining hard
  - Light rain
  - Clear skies
11. What does “I stumbled about on my way to the shed in spite of the beam from my torch” suggest? **(1 mark)**
- The light from the torch is not strong enough
  - The path is treacherous
  - It is too foggy to see clearly
  - The moon is shining
12. Why does the narrator walk to the front of the house on line 26? **(1 mark)**
- He was scared
  - He thought someone had come to visit
  - He couldn't find the axe
  - It was too dark to see clearly
13. What types of words are “clip-clop” “rumbling and creaking” on lines 29-30? **(1 mark)**
- Nouns
  - Onomatopoeia
  - Adjectives
  - Metaphors

14. What prompts the narrator's "awful cry of realization"? **(1 mark)**
- He is lonely
  - He thinks he can hear a ghost
  - He is scared of horses
  - He is sad that no one has come to visit him
15. How would you describe the setting of this story? **(1 mark)**
- Rural
  - Busy
  - Loud
  - Large
16. What is the narrator "straining into the murky distance" for on line 35? **(1 mark)**
- He is trying to see who is approaching
  - He is trying to get to the pony and trap
  - He is trying to work out if the sound is from a real pony and trap
  - He is trying to signal to the driver
17. Why does the narrator not run after the pony and trap? **(1 mark)**
- He is too scared
  - He can't hear anything
  - He is worried about Spider
  - He thinks the driver will challenge him
18. What technique is used in the phrase "stand as still and stiff as a post" in line 38-39? **(1 mark)**
- Metaphor
  - Personification
  - Simile
  - Onomatopoeia
19. What does "turmoil" mean on line 39? **(1 mark)**
- Chaos
  - Fright
  - Surprise
  - Feeling
20. What word best describes this story? **(1 mark)**
- Funny
  - Informative
  - Eerie
  - Sad





