



REPTON SCHOOL

Year 7 Entrance Examination

English

28th February 2009

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Time : 1 hour 30mins.

Instructions to candidates:

- a) Write all of your answers on the answer paper provided.
- b) You will require a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber.
- c) Allow about 45 minutes for the comprehension and 45 minutes for the composition.

Although both he and my mother were sweet, harmless and almost entirely undemonstrative people, my father had the strange and perhaps dubious distinction of being an early pioneer of electric-shock treatment. He was good at shocks. Once, he hid underneath my bed as I tried to get to sleep. I didn't know he was there. Why would I? He never displayed any kind of emotion or showed an inclination to act out of the ordinary. Unaware of his presence, I lay on my front, quietly shuffling and obediently closing my eyes, thinking, no doubt, that this was his way how good boys behaved. Good boys kept quiet and tried with all their might to get to sleep when their parents told them it was bedtime. Maybe I was dropping off when I became aware that the bed was moving. At first, I thought it must be me, perhaps on the edge of dream, certainly drowsy, my senses scrambled. I did another shuffle and tried even harder to go to sleep. The bed moved again. I thought about sitting up, this time convinced that something was not right. When the bed moved for the third time, this time more violently, I realized that I was apprehensive. My natural curiosity at wanting to discover the cause was being overwhelmed by a growing fear of unknown. I sat paralysed as it shifted for the fourth time. Unable to bear it any longer, I leapt out of the bed, only for a pair of strong, resistant hands to take a tight hold of my ankles. Anyone listening would have heard my wild screams being punctuated by the sound of my father's laughter. Not a man noted for his sense of humour, he nevertheless thought it the funniest thing. The result was that for several years after, I was traumatized and only able to lie on my back, afraid that if I took my eye off the room, the Bogeyman would surely get me.

This was the only time that my father played anything like a practical joke on me. He didn't mention the occasion again. We never discussed it at a later date. It was, as far as I can tell, entirely out of character. In all other departments of his life, he was a buttoned-up, cautious, austere correct man. In perfect accordance with the standards of their day, my parents were not emotional people. I always suspected that from the point of view of those a little further down the social scale - maids, plumbers, and maybe even shopkeepers, for example - we must have seemed neither happy nor close. Now, I think we were probably as respectful towards one another as protocol, habit and character permitted, though we were never complicit. Still, whatever our collective imperfections, we did offer ourselves as some kind of 'unit' though a unit to which I never quite belonged nor was able absolutely to extricate myself from.

Year 7

Time Allowed : One hour and thirty minutes

COMPREHENSION

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow it.

1. Write a short sentence explaining what each of the following words mean:

(a) inclination	<i>Line 6</i>	(1 mark)
(b) resistant	<i>Line 18</i>	(1 mark)
(c) traumatized	<i>Line 21</i>	(1 mark)
(d) buttoned-up	<i>Line 27</i>	(2 marks)
(e) protocol	<i>Line 32</i>	(2 marks)

(Total = 7 marks)

2. Explain the phrase 'perhaps dubious distinction' (Line 2) to bring out its meaning as used in the passage.
(2 marks)
3. Think of two adjectives (not actually used in the passage) that best describe the writer's father.
(2 marks)
4. Explain what or who you think 'the Bogeyman' (Lines 22 and 23) might be.
(2 marks)
5. In what way or ways does the writer's father act out of character?
(2 marks)
6. Rewrite the following sentence in the present tense:
"I did another shuffle and tried even harder to go to sleep. The bed moved again" (Line 12).
(2 marks)
7. Explain the following sentence so that its meaning is fully explained: "My natural curiosity at wanting to discover the cause was being overwhelmed by a growing fear of the unknown" (Lines 15 and 16).
(2 marks)
8. How do you think the writer feels about his father? Give three reasons for your answer.
(3 marks)
9. What do you think might be the reasons for the writer's father playing this practical joke? (Note: the passage itself doesn't provide an obvious answer. You will have to create one based on what you've read.)
(4 marks)

10. The writer says that he and his father never discussed the joke. Write a short piece, of approximately 300 words, in which the writer and his father **do** discuss what happened. Your piece should take into account the following things:

- The age of the writer when he and his father discuss the incident. He must be at least ten years older than he appears in the passage, when he was only a small child. He could, however, be much older. It's your choice.
- How you feel the writer and his father would remember and feel about the incident, especially if many years have passed.
- In addition to dialogue, your piece should include careful descriptions of the circumstances and setting of the discussion between father and son.

(9 marks)

Total marks for comprehension = 35 marks

COMPOSITION

Write a composition suggested by **one** of the following titles:

1. Great Expectations
2. Laughing Matters
3. High-Rise

Please note that in addition to the content of your composition, specific marks will be allocated for grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Content: 22 marks

Grammar, punctuation and spelling: 13 marks

Total marks for composition = 35 marks

Total marks for paper: 70