

English Language

GCSE

Paper 1



Four Model Answers

Four past papers



First Rate Tutors

Model Answer

Question 1: Read again the first part of the source from lines 1 to 5. List four things about the bird in Alex’s nightmare from this part of the source.

[4 marks]

- 1) The bird is enormous and black in colour.
- 2) The bird crashed against the window with a clatter.
- 3) The bird carried off his mother.
- 4) The bird had yellow claws.

Question 2: How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the storm?

[8 marks]

The writer effectively uses language to convey the violence of the storm through vividly describing the wind and the elements. The wind is personified and described as “lashing the trees.” The violent verb “lashing” powerfully conveys the wind and the storm as being relentless and consistent. It appears to be torturing the house the protagonist is in - creating a dark atmosphere. This creates a deep sense of gloom for the reader as they sense a terrible and ominous feeling.

Furthermore, the storm is conveyed as being somewhat predatory and we get the sense that the intensity of the storm, coupled with the rain, creates the sensation of being inside a boat in extremely rough weather. The writer states: “He turned on the light with a sensation of being adrift in a boat...” This complex sentence creates the impression that the storm is so overpowering that it is able to disorient the boy - he feels as though he is in a tumultuous boat. We as the readers sense the unpredictable weather which is further causing a dark atmosphere to descend upon the boy.

Question 3: You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is taken from the beginning of a novel. How is the text structured to interest you as a reader?

[8 marks]

The passage begins with a sudden and dark nightmare. The writer states: “Alexander Cold awakened at dawn, startled by a nightmare.” This opening interests us as a reader because of the sudden and sinister depiction of the nightmare immediately captures our attention as readers. We get a terrible sense of foreboding, and we read on to unravel this mystery.

turned. They looked at me and at each other. They spoke a few words. They came towards me quickly. I felt gratitude and relief welling up in me. I said, "Thank God I've found you. What is happening? I am very scared. There is water at the bottom of the ship. I am worried about my family. I can't get to the level where our cabins are. Is this normal? Do you think-" One of the men interrupted me by thrusting a life jacket into my arms and shouting something in Chinese. I noticed an orange whistle dangling from the life jacket. The men were nodding vigorously at me. When they took hold of me and lifted me in their strong arms, I thought nothing of it. I thought they were helping me. I was so full of trust in them that I felt grateful as they carried me in the air. Only when they threw me overboard did I begin to have doubts.