



Emanuel School

11+ English Entrance Paper

Time Allowed: 1 HOUR

Surname	
First Name	

Fill in the boxes above and read the following carefully:

This time provided to complete this assessment is 1 hour.

You should take: 30 minutes answering all questions in Section A

 30 minutes answering Section B

Section A: Reading Comprehension

Spend up to 30 minutes on this section. Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Bill is recounting what happened one night in London during the Blitz in World War Two, when German planes were bombing London. Bill and Julie are teenagers.

5 Slowly we edged out along the path, over the tops of the Embankment trees, out over the water. We went crouched down, so that the parapet shielded us. The parapet **cast** a deep shadow over us as we went – really it wasn't dark. The edges of the girders were traced in faint reflected lights, and when a train rumbled by, shaking the ground we stood on, all the windows blacked out, we could see the criss-cross shadows of the girders moving across it.

10 We had nearly reached the second bay on the bridge when there was a tremendous bang on our left somewhere. Seconds later the air hardened into a wall, struck us, threw us against the fencing on the girders, and held us there. Somehow in the same split second, reacting to pain in my ears, remembering something I knew, I thrust the fingers of my left hand between my own lips, and those of my right hand into Julie's mouth. Turning her head, she tried to drag my hand away. I held on to her, fingers hooked over her teeth, while the air pressed down on us, held us **spread-eagled**, and crushed the breath out of us. Then we were being showered with specks of grit, which scratched our faces, and forced their way into our closed eyes; then the blast wave passed by, and the air dropped us, let us go, so that we **slithered** 15 to the ground. On hands and knees we dragged ourselves into the lee of the parapet where it curved away from the line of the railway, making a small balcony over the river. And there we stayed. I was terrified. Not quaking with fear but tingling with it – it was a prickling sensation on the skin, like having a high temperature. And although it was a cold night, with frost in the air, I was sweating. Yet I remember working it out quite coolly in my head; it was 20 more dangerous to stay where we were, but on balance more dangerous to move on.

25 Julie wriggled herself up close to the foot of the wall, and lay quite still, face turned skywards. We didn't say anything at all for a long time. We could hear a lot of noise: explosions, gunfire, and nearer to us, shrapnel winding down from the sky, making a funny sound like a gurgle with a whistle in it. After a little she said, 'You hurt my mouth.'

'If you don't keep your mouth open, the blast bursts your ears, I think,' I said.

30 'Oh, yes,' she said. 'I remember something about keeping a cork between one's teeth. Thanks, then.' Then, a lot later, 'Bill, are you all right?'

'Fine. Just a bit shaken. How about you?'

35 'All right. Bill, why isn't it dark? I wish it were dark!'

Very cautiously, I got up, and put my head over the parapet. I remember hearing my own voice, saying very slowly and clearly, 'God... in heaven... look at that!'

40 She moved. She looked too. Below us the water of the river was a sheet of orange and gold. The eastern sky, as in a monstrous sunrise, was an expanse of limpid golden light, as though the sky itself was a wall of fire. Against it we could see the slender spires of Wren's churches, and the great dome of St Paul's. They were not quite mere silhouettes; the corners, the columns, the curve of the dome had been traced dim lines of reflected light, as though they
45 had been drawn with a pencil of flame. London was burning. It was all on fire. The immensity of it quenched my own fear in a wave of awe; it seemed like the end of the world.

When we climbed down from the bridge we were in a warren of unfamiliar streets. I don't remember very well how long we wandered around there, but in the end we were found by
50 a warden, who took us to a rest centre; a grim sort of school building. It was like a very overcrowded shelter inside, or so it seemed at first glance. Then I saw that everyone there was filthy, covered with dirt and plaster, clothes torn and thick with dirt. A woman sitting at a table by the door said to us, "Bombed out?"

Glossary:

Parapet: a low wall along the edge of a roof, bridge, or balcony. It's built to protect people from falling.

Questions:

I. In the first paragraph, how can you tell that Bill and Julie are behaving in a careful way? Write down two details in your own words.

[2 marks]

2. Re-read lines 7-15, as copied below. **How does the author convey the power of the bomb blast?** Pick a short quote (3-5 words) and explain in detail what impression this gives you of the bomb's force.

[3 marks]

Seconds later the air hardened into a wall, struck us, threw us against the fencing on the girders, and held us there. Somehow in the same split second, reacting to pain in my ears, remembering something I knew, I thrust the fingers of my left hand between my own lips, and those of my right hand into Julie's mouth. Turning her head, she tried to drag my hand away. I held on to her, fingers hooked over her teeth, while the air pressed down on us, held us spread-eagled, and crushed the breath out of us. Then we were being showered with specks of grit, which scratched our faces, and forced their way into our closed eyes; then the blast wave passed by, and the air dropped us, let us go, so that we slithered to the ground.

3. Look closely at this section (lines 17-20). **How does the author show Bill's different feelings after the bomb blast here?** In your answer, refer to two examples from the text and explain their effect. You can use quotations if you wish.

[4 marks]

Not quaking with fear but tingling with it – it was a prickling sensation on the skin, like having a high temperature. And although it was a cold night, with frost in the air, I was sweating. Yet I remember working it out quite coolly in my head; it was more dangerous to stay where we were, but on balance more dangerous to move on.

4. Look at these words, which are in **bold** in the passage. **Which words or phrases of the same meaning could you use to replace them?**

[3 marks]

a. **Cast** (line 2)

b. **spread-eagled** (line 13)

c. **slithered** (line 15)

5. Look closely at lines 32-38 (the next to last paragraph – copied below). **How does the author show Bill's shock and awe at what has taken place?** *In your answer, refer to two examples from the text and explain their effect. You can use short quotations if you wish.*

[4 marks]

She moved. She looked too. Below us the water of the river was a sheet of orange and gold. The eastern sky, as in a monstrous sunrise, was an expanse of limpid golden light, as though the sky itself was a wall of fire. Against it we could see the slender spires of Wren's churches, and the great dome of St Paul's. They were not quite mere silhouettes; the corners, the columns, the curve of the dome had been traced dim lines of reflected light, as though they had been drawn with a pencil of flame. London was burning. It was all on fire. The immensity of it quenched my own fear in a wave of awe; it seemed like the end of the world.

6. In the following extract you will find four mistakes in spelling and punctuation.
Copy out the extract, **putting in the correct punctuation and spelling.**

[4 marks]

We where very tired and sat down, after a wile someone brought strong black tea
in chiped mugs.
