

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

April 2021
for entry in September 2022

ENGLISH

Your Name: _____

Your School: _____

Time allowed: 1 hour

Equipment needed: Pen and lined paper.

Information for candidates:

1. Dictionaries are NOT allowed.
2. Write your name and school on this page.
3. Write your answers on the separate **paper provided**. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
4. There are 2 sections in this paper Section A and B. You should attempt both of them.
5. The paper will be marked out of 40. The marks for each question are indicated in square brackets [].

SECTION A

Read the following extract and answer ALL the questions that follow.

I was set down from the cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment my life in the village began.

5 The June grass, amongst which I stood, was taller than I was, and I wept. I had never been so close to grass before. It towered above me, each blade tattooed with tiger-skins of sunlight. It was knife-edged, dark, and a wicked green, thick as a forest and alive with grasshoppers that chattered and leapt through the air like monkeys.

10 I was lost and didn't know how to move. A tropic heat oozed up from the ground, rank with sharp odours of roots and nettles. Snow-clouds of blossom banked in the sky, showering upon me the fumes and flakes of their sweet and giddy suffocation. High overhead ran frenzied larks, screaming, as though the sky were tearing apart.

15 For the first time in my life I was out of the sight of humans. For the first time in my life I was alone in a world whose behaviour I could neither predict nor understand; a world of birds that squealed, of plants that stank, of insects that sprang about with out warning. I was lost and I did not expect to be found again. I put back my head and howled, and the sun hit me smartly on the fact, like a bully.

20 From this daylight nightmare I was awakened by the appearance of my sisters. They came scrambling and calling up the steep rough bank, and parting the long grass found me. Faces of rose, familiar, living; huge shining faces hung up like shields between me and the sky; face with grins and white teeth, brushing off terror with their broad scoldings and affection. They leaned over me – one, two, three – their mouths smeared with red currants and their hands
25 dripping with juice.

“There, there, it's all right, don't you wail any more. Come down 'ome and we'll stuff you with currants.”

30 And Marjorie, the eldest, lifted me into her long brown hair, and ran me jogging down the path and through the steep rose-filled garden, and set me down on the cottage doorstep, which was our home, though I couldn't believe it.

Taken from, *Cider with Rosie*, **by** Laurie Lee

1. What do you learn from the opening sentence of the text? [2 marks]
2. Pick three phrases that describe the natural world and explain what the writer's choice of words signify about the natural world. [6 marks]
3. How does the writer convey the scale of the world to the three-year-old child? You should support your ideas with quotations from the text. [4 marks]
4. Using evidence from the text, compare how the writer felt when he was alone and then when his sisters arrived. [8 marks]

SECTION B

Choose ONE of the questions below. You do not have to write a long piece. Think about using good vocabulary and writing accurately. [20 marks]

EITHER

1. Write a piece called "The Arrival". Your writing may be based on either a real or imagined experience.

OR

2. Write about a setting from the perspective of a character of your choice.