

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 40 minutes. Read the passage carefully, then answer every question. Use full sentences where asked. Write neatly. You have 40 minutes. Some questions are deliberately hard, so do not worry if you cannot finish every one. Show your best thinking. Show your working where you can. Marks for each question are shown in brackets, like [2]. Total marks: **32**.

READ THIS, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

The old lighthouse had not shone for thirty years, yet every evening Mara climbed the spiral stairs to watch the sea. The steps were cold and worn smooth by hundreds of vanished feet, and the wind hummed through cracks in the stone like a voice that had forgotten its words. From the top she could see the harbour lights blinking awake, one by one, as if the town were slowly opening its eyes. Mara was not allowed up there, but she told herself that the lighthouse was lonely and that someone ought to keep it company. On the night the storm came, she understood, at last, why her grandmother had warned her to stay away.

- 1 Where does Mara go every evening, and how does she get to the top? [2]

RETRIEVAL

- 2 Find and copy ONE word from the passage that means 'used or seen so much that the surface has become flat and shiny'. [1]

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

- 3 The writer says the steps were 'worn smooth by hundreds of vanished feet'. What does this tell us about the lighthouse? Explain your answer. [2]

INFERENCE / LANGUAGE EFFECT

- 4 The wind hums 'like a voice that had forgotten its words.' What kind of feeling does this comparison create? Give ONE word for the feeling and explain why. [2]

INFERENCE / WRITER'S EFFECT

- 5 The harbour lights blink awake 'as if the town were slowly opening its eyes.' What is this comparison doing? Tick the best answer: (a) describing the weather; (b) making the town seem alive, like a person waking up; (c) telling us the time of day exactly; (d) showing the lights are broken. [1]

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- 6 Why does Mara keep climbing the lighthouse even though she is not allowed? Use the passage to support your answer. [2]

INFERENCE / CHARACTER MOTIVATION

- 7 The last sentence says 'she understood, at last, why her grandmother had warned her to stay away.' What does this make the reader expect or feel? Explain. [2]

WRITER'S INTENT / SUSPENSE

- 8 Write the contraction (short form) for each: 'had not', 'she will', 'it is'. [3]

GRAMMAR: CONTRACTIONS

9 Add the missing punctuation to this sentence and rewrite it correctly: mara whispered are you lonely too [3]

GRAMMAR: PUNCTUATING SPEECH

10 Sort these words into nouns, verbs and adjectives: climbed, lonely, harbour, hummed, cold. [3]

GRAMMAR: WORD CLASSES

11 Choose the correct word and write the full sentence: 'Mara should have (went / gone) home before the storm.' [1]

GRAMMAR: VERB FORM (PAST PARTICIPLE)

12 Add a suitable prefix to make a word meaning the opposite of 'possible', and use your new word in a sentence. [2]

VOCABULARY: PREFIXES

13 Replace the dull word 'big' in this sentence with a more powerful, precise adjective: 'A big wave hit the lighthouse.' [1]

VOCABULARY: PRECISE WORD CHOICE

14 Write the plural of each word: storm, leaf, child.

[3]

GRAMMAR: PLURALS (REGULAR + IRREGULAR)

15 Writing technique: Write TWO sentences describing the moment the storm hits the lighthouse. You must use ONE simile and ONE piece of personification (making something non-human seem alive). Underline your simile. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE

End of assessment. Hand your paper back when you are finished. Well done!