

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 50 minutes. Read the passage carefully at least twice. Answer in full, well-constructed sentences unless told otherwise. You have 50 minutes. The later questions demand close analysis and precise expression; attempt them last and explain your reasoning fully. Quality of thought matters more than length. Show your working where you can. Marks for each question are shown in brackets, like [2]. Total marks: **37**.

READ THIS, THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

For as long as the village could remember, the bridge had carried everyone safely across the gorge, and so no one thought to question it. It was only Elara, watching from the riverbank below, who noticed how the central stones had begun to weep thin lines of dust each time a cart rumbled over. She tried to tell the elders, but they smiled the patient, dismissive smiles that adults reserve for clever children, and reminded her that the bridge had stood for two hundred years. 'A thing that has never fallen,' said the eldest, 'will surely never fall.' Elara said nothing more, but that night she lay awake, turning the old man's logic over in her mind like a stone she could not quite set down, and finding, beneath its smooth surface, a crack.

- 1 What did Elara notice about the bridge, and what does the timing of it (each time a cart crossed) tell her about the cause? [2]

RETRIEVAL

- 2 The stones 'weep thin lines of dust'. Explain why the writer chose the word 'weep' rather than simply 'drop' or 'release'. [3]

LANGUAGE ANALYSIS / WORD CHOICE

- 3 The elders give 'the patient, dismissive smiles that adults reserve for clever children.' What does this phrase reveal about how the elders treat Elara, and about the writer's attitude towards them? [3]

INFERENCE / WRITER'S VIEWPOINT

- 4 The eldest says, 'A thing that has never fallen will surely never fall.' Explain why this reasoning is flawed. [2]

REASONING / EVALUATION

- 5 Elara turns the old man's logic over 'like a stone she could not quite set down, and finding, beneath its smooth surface, a crack.' Explain what this extended comparison means. [3]

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE / EXTENDED METAPHOR

- 6 How does the writer make the reader feel that something bad is going to happen? Refer to at least TWO different details from the passage. [3]

WRITER'S CRAFT / STRUCTURE

- 7 Identify the main clause and the subordinate clause in: 'Although the elders ignored her, Elara continued to watch the bridge.' [2]

GRAMMAR: CLAUSES

- 8 Rewrite this sentence in the passive voice: 'The villagers crossed the weakening bridge daily.' [2]

GRAMMAR: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

- 9 Punctuate this sentence correctly, adding a colon and any other marks needed: 'Elara knew one truth the bridge would not last.' [2]

GRAMMAR: COLONS

- 10 Identify the word class of 'patient' in 'the patient, dismissive smiles', then write a new sentence using 'patient' as a DIFFERENT word class. [2]

GRAMMAR: WORD CLASSES / MULTIPLE MEANINGS

- 11 Replace the underlined informal phrase with a formal, Standard English alternative: 'The elders reckoned the bridge was totally fine.' [2]

VOCABULARY / REGISTER / STANDARD ENGLISH

- 12 Give the precise meaning of 'dismissive' as used in the passage, and write an antonym (a word of opposite meaning). [2]

VOCABULARY: MEANING AND ANTONYMS

- 13 Turn this pair of sentences into ONE complex sentence using a relative clause: 'Elara warned the elders. The elders refused to listen.' [2]

GRAMMAR: RELATIVE CLAUSES / SENTENCE COMBINING

- 14 Compare the two openings. Which is more effective for building tension, and why? (a) 'The bridge was old.' (b) 'For as long as the village could remember, the bridge had carried everyone safely across the gorge, and so no one thought to question it.' Give two reasons. [3]

COMPARISON / ANALYSIS OF EFFECT

- 15 Writing technique: Write the OPENING paragraph (4-6 sentences) of the moment the bridge finally fails, told from Elara's point of view. You must include: a semicolon used correctly, one metaphor, a fronted adverbial, and a deliberate short sentence for impact. Annotate each technique. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE

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