

English Entry Assessment

Name Date Score

Time: about 50 minutes. Answer all questions. Read the passage twice before you begin. Write in full sentences where asked. You have 50 minutes. Quote from the text where a question tells you to. Marks are shown in brackets. 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 lighthouse had not been lit for thirty years, yet Mara climbed its spiral stairs every evening, counting each worn step as though the numbers might bring the keeper back. At the top, the great lamp sat cold and blind, its glass scarred by salt and time. She would press her palm against it, feeling for a warmth that was never there, and watch the grey sea fold and unfold itself against the rocks below. Sometimes a ship passed far out, its lights blinking like a question no one answered. Her grandmother said the lighthouse was just a ruin now, a thing best forgotten, but Mara knew better: a place could keep a person inside it long after the person had gone.

- 1 Find and copy one word from the passage that means 'damaged' or 'marked'. [1]

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VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

- 2 Why does Mara climb the lighthouse stairs every evening? Use the text to support your answer. [2]

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RETRIEVAL / INFERENCE

- 3 The writer says the lamp 'sat cold and blind'. Explain what the word 'blind' suggests about the lighthouse, and why it is an effective choice. [3]

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LANGUAGE ANALYSIS / PERSONIFICATION

- 4 'its lights blinking like a question no one answered'. Name the technique used here and explain the effect it has on the reader. [3]

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE / SIMILE

- 5 How does the grandmother's view of the lighthouse differ from Mara's? Refer to both characters. [3]

COMPARISON / INFERENCE

- 6 Explain in your own words what the final sentence means: 'a place could keep a person inside it long after the person had gone.' [2]

INTERPRETATION

- 7 Identify the subordinate clause in this sentence: 'Although the lamp was cold, Mara still pressed her hand to it.' [1]

GRAMMAR - CLAUSES

- 8 Rewrite this sentence in the passive voice: 'The salt had scarred the glass.' [2]

GRAMMAR - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

- 9 Add a correctly punctuated relative clause to expand this sentence: 'The lamp was cold.' Your clause must use a relative pronoun. [2]

GRAMMAR - RELATIVE CLAUSES

- 10 In the phrase 'the sea felt vast and indifferent', which word is closest in meaning to 'indifferent' as used here? (a) unfeeling/uncaring (b) hostile (c) confused (d) gentle. [1]

VOCABULARY

- 11 Punctuate this sentence correctly, adding all missing punctuation: mara whispered i will keep the light burning even if no one comes [2]

PUNCTUATION - DIRECT SPEECH

- 12 Change the underlined word to the correct standard English form: 'She should of climbed more slowly.' [1]

GRAMMAR - STANDARD ENGLISH

- 13 Explain the difference in meaning between these two sentences and what causes it: (A) 'Let's eat, Grandmother.' (B) 'Let's eat Grandmother.' [2]

PUNCTUATION - EFFECT OF THE COMMA

- 14 The writer chose to begin the passage with 'The lighthouse had not been lit for thirty years'. Explain why a writer might open a story with this kind of information, and what effect it has. [3]

WRITING TECHNIQUE / WRITER'S INTENT

- 15 Write the opening two or three sentences of a story set in an abandoned place. You must include one simile and one piece of personification, and use varied sentence lengths for effect. [4]

WRITING TECHNIQUE - IMAGERY AND SENTENCE VARIETY

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