



11+ English Sample Entrance Test

In the test in January, you will be given lined paper for your answers

This is the English test. There are two parts to the test.

The first part is a comprehension test. You will read the passage through and answer a few questions on the passage. The comprehension lasts **25 minutes**. There will then be a short break.

The second part is a creative writing task, which also lasts **25 minutes**.

Here is some advice to help you do your best in this test:

- *Write your first name and last name at the top of each answer sheet*
- *You are advised to spend a few minutes thinking about and planning your writing*
- *Choose your words carefully*
- *Set out your work in paragraphs*
- *Spell and punctuate as accurately as you can*
- *Write clearly in pencil or pen*
- *Try to allow time for checking your work.* The invigilator will tell you when you have 5 minutes left
- *If you make a mistake, do not worry.* Simply cross out the mistake and write the correction beside it
- *If you need more paper, put your hand up and the invigilator will give it to you.*

Read the following passage carefully and then answer all the questions

Quiet Heroine

This story takes place in a forested region of the eastern USA. Lyddie, the eldest daughter, is preparing breakfast one morning.

Lyddie looked up from the pot of oatmeal she was stirring over the fire, and there in the doorway was a massive black head, the nose up and smelling, the tiny eyes bright with hungry anticipation.

"Don't nobody yell," she said softly. "Just back up slow and quiet to the ladder and climb up to the loft. Charlie, you get Agnes, and Mama, you take Rachel." She heard her mother whimper. "Shhh," she continued, her voice absolutely even. "It's all right as long as nobody gets upset. Just take it nice and gentle. I'm watching him all the way, and I'll yank the ladder up after me."

They obeyed her, even Mama, though. Lyddie could hear her sucking in her breath. Behind Lyddie's back, the ladder creaked, as two by two, first Charles and Agnes, then Mama and Rachel, climbed up into the loft. Lyddie glared straight into the bear's eyes, daring him to step forward into the cabin. Then when the ladder was silent and she could hear slight rustling above her as the family settled themselves on the straw mattresses, she backed up to the ladder and, never taking her eyes off the bear, inched her way up to the loft. At the top she almost fell backward on to the platform. Charles dragged her on to the mattress beside her mother:

The racket released the bear from the charm Lyddie seemed to have placed on him. He banged the door aside and rushed in toward the ladder, but Charles snatched it. The bottom rungs swung out, hitting the beast on the nose. The blow startled him momentarily, giving Lyddie a chance to help Charles haul the ladder up on to the platform and out of reach. The old bear roared in frustration and waved at the empty air with his huge paws, then reared up on his hind legs. He was so tall that his nose nearly touched the edge of the loft. The little girls cried out. Their mother screamed. "Oh my!"

"Hush," Lyddie commanded. "You'll just make him madder." The cries were swallowed up in anxious gasps of breath. Charles's arms went round the little ones, and Lyddie put a firm grip on her mother's shoulder. It was trembling, so Lyddie relaxed her fingers and began to stroke. "It's all right," she murmured. "He can't reach us."

Questions

1. On page 6, in paragraphs 2 and 3, Lyddie had her back to the family.

a) Why? [1 mark]

b) How did she know when the others had reached safety? [1 mark]

2. Why is the ladder important in the story? Give two reasons. [2 marks]

3. *The racket released the bear from the charm...* (top line, page 7). How was the atmosphere in the home different before and after this moment? [2 marks]

4. Charles and his mother reacted to the danger differently from Lyddie.

Describe their reactions.

Charles: _____

Mother: _____

[2 marks]

5. In what ways did Lyddie show herself to be a good leader?

Explain fully, using the text to help you. [4 marks]

Creative Writing [20 marks]

Choose only **ONE** of the three tasks listed below. You have 25 minutes

Task 1 A Guide to my Family

Write an introduction for visitors to your house.

Try to look at the members of your family as if you were seeing them for the first time. Who would you introduce first, and why? Is there anyone whose habits or conversation might puzzle a newcomer?

Hint: *don't be scared to add the odd humorous touch.*

Task 2 Write a story called **The Gadget**

Hint: *remember that all the best stories include some vivid description.*

Task 3 When I woke up, I found I was ...

Imagine that you wake up one day to find yourself transformed into a human-sized animal or insect – perhaps a hamster or a stick insect. Describe what happens to you on your first morning – how will your family react? How will you manage your normal routines – washing, eating breakfast?

Hint: *begin your writing as you wake up and realise that something feels very different today...*