



Write your name here

Surname	Other names	Prep School	Date
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# Scholarship Examination

Total Marks

## Instructions

Answer **all** questions.

## Information

- The total mark for this paper is 35
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  - use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

## Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Write your answers neatly and in good English.
- Try to answer every question.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end

# Reading Passage

The following extract is taken from 'Gabriel Ernest' by H. H. Munro (published

'There's a wild beast in your woods,' said Mr. Cunningham as he was being driven to the station.

It was the only thing he had said during the drive, but as Van Cheele had been talking non-stop he hadn't noticed his companion's silence.

'Oh, a stray fox or two and some weasels. Nothing more dangerous than that,' said Van Cheele. Mr. Cunningham, who was an artist, said nothing. 5

'What did you mean about a wild beast?' asked Van Cheele later when they were on the platform.

'Oh, nothing. Must have been my imagination,' said Cunningham. 'Here is the train.'

That afternoon Mr Van Cheele went for a walk through his woodland property as he often did. He was a keen walker and enjoyed noticing developments in nature – the first bluebells, a new woodpecker's nest – which he then told everyone about at great length. But what he saw this 10 afternoon was very different from what he had seen before.

On a shelf of smooth stone overhanging a deep pool among some trees a boy of about sixteen lay stretched out, drying his wet brown limbs in the sun. His wet hair, parted by having dived in the pool, lay close to his head and his light-brown eyes, so light that there was almost a tigerish gleam in them, were turned towards Van Cheele with lazy watchfulness. It was an unexpected sight 15 and Van Cheele found himself having to think before he spoke, which was unusual for him. Where on earth could this wild-looking boy have come from? The miller's wife had lost a child some two months ago, supposed to have been swept away by the millstream, but that had been a baby, not a teenage boy.

'What are you doing here?' he demanded. 20

'Sunning myself, obviously,' replied the boy.

'Where do you live?'

'Here, in these woods.'

'You can't live in the woods,' said Van Cheele.

'They're very nice woods,' said the boy calmly. 25

'But where do you sleep at night?'

'I don't sleep at night. That's my busiest time.'

Van Cheele began to have the irritated feeling that he was grappling with something he didn't understand.

'What do you feed on?' he asked. 30

'Flesh,' said the boy and he pronounced it with slow enjoyment as if he was tasting it.

'Flesh! What flesh?'

'As it interests you, rabbits, wild-fowl, hares, poultry, lambs in their season, children when I can get any. They're usually too well locked in at night when I do most of my hunting. It's quite two months since I tasted child flesh.' 35

Ignoring the last comment as a joke, Van Cheele said, 'You're talking nonsense about feeding on hares. Hares on the hillside aren't easy to catch.'

'At night I hunt on four feet,' was the boy's strange reply.

'I suppose you mean you hunt with a dog,' said Van Cheele.

The boy rolled slowly over on his back and laughed a weird low laugh that was both pleasantly 40 like a chuckle and unpleasantly like a snarl.

'I don't fancy any dog would be keen on my company,' he said, 'especially at night.'

Van Cheele began to feel there was something uncanny about this youngster. He didn't like it.

'Well, I can't have you staying in these woods,' he said. 'They're mine.'

'I reckon you'd rather have me here than in your house,' said the boy. 45

The idea of this strange person in his house was alarming. 'If you don't go I shall make you,' snapped Van Cheele.

The boy turned like a flash, plunged into the pool and, in a moment, had flung his wet glistening body halfway up the bank where Van Cheele was standing. In an otter the movement would not have been remarkable; in a boy it was startling. Van Cheele's foot slipped as he stepped 50 backwards automatically and he found himself almost lying on the slippery weed-grown bank with those tigerish yellow eyes not very far from his own. Instinctively he half raised his hand to protect his throat. The boy laughed again, a laugh in which the snarl had nearly driven out the chuckle, and then, with another of his lightning movements, plunged out of view into a tangle of weeds and fern.

## Section A /20

You should spend approximately 30 minutes on Section A.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the following questions. Answer in full sentences unless directed to do otherwise. The marks at the end of each question are a guide as to how much you should write. Detailed answers will be rewarded.

1. Look carefully at **lines 1-7**. In your own words, explain what is strange about Cunningham's behaviour. (2 marks)
2. Look again at **lines 20-39**. Identify and quote four strange details about the boy. (4 marks)
3. Paying close attention to the words in bold, explain what the following quotations tell you about Van Cheele's feelings.
  - a. '**grappling** with something he didn't understand' (**lines 28-29**)
  - b. 'something **uncanny** about this youngster' (**line 43**) (4 marks)
4. Look at **lines 12-19**. Using evidence from the text, explain the first impression created by the boy's appearance. (4 marks)
5. Consider **lines 40-55**. Explain how the author uses words, phrases and/or language techniques to make the boy's behaviour seem unsettling. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (6 marks)

## **Vocabulary**

Explain the meanings of the following words as used in the passage:

1. Weird
2. Uncanny
3. Startling
4. Instinctively
5. Glistening

(5 marks)

## **Part B**

Use the following words in in complete sentences to show your understanding:

(10 marks)

- a. Belligerent
- b. Excruciating
- c. Appease
- d. Escapade
- e. Tumultuous