



PEPONI SCHOOL

ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

SURNAME	OTHER NAMES	SCHOOL	DATE
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ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION
PAPER 1
TIME: 1 HOUR
TOTAL MARKS: 25

YOU MUST HAVE LINED PAPER

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use a black or blue pen
2. Read the passage and the question carefully before you start to answer it.
3. Use the bullet points to help you as you plan and write
4. Write your answer neatly and in good English

Read carefully the following extract from a novel.

Lucy, the narrator, works in a boarding school abroad where she has heard rumours of a ghost. She is out at night, thinking about her past life, present problems and possible changes in the future. She has a mysterious encounter.

How does the writer convey the effect on Lucy of this unsettling experience?

To help you answer this question, you might consider:

- how the writer describes the unusual atmosphere that night
- how she conveys Lucy's thoughts about her life
- how the writing makes the encounter with the veiled figure so dramatic.

The air of the night was very still, but dim with a peculiar mist, which changed the moonlight into a luminous haze. In this air, or this mist, there was some quality – electrical, perhaps – which acted in strange sort upon me. I felt then as I had felt a year ago in England – on a night when the aurora borealis¹ was streaming and sweeping round heaven, when, belated in lonely fields, I had paused to watch that mustering² of an army with banners – that quivering of serried³ lances – that swift ascent of messengers from below the north star to the dark, high keystone of heaven's arch. I felt, not happy, far otherwise, but strong with reinforced strength.

If life be a war, it seemed my destiny to conduct it single-handed. I pondered now how to break up my winter-quarters – to leave an encampment where food and forage⁴ failed. Perhaps, to effect this change, another pitched battle must be fought with fortune; if so, I had a mind to the encounter: too poor to lose, God might destine me to gain. But what road was open? – what plan available?

On this question I was still pausing, when the moon, so dim hitherto, seemed to shine out somewhat brighter: a ray gleamed even white before me, and a shadow became distinct and marked. I looked more narrowly, to make out the cause of this well-defined contrast appearing a little suddenly in the obscure alley: whiter and blacker it grew on my eye: it took shape with instantaneous transformation. I stood about three yards from a tall, sable-robed, snowy-veiled woman.

Five minutes passed. I neither fled nor shrieked. She was there still. I spoke.

'Who are you? and why do you come to me?' She stood mute.

She stood mute. She had no face – no features: all below her brow was masked with a white cloth; but she had eyes, and they viewed me.

I felt, if not brave, yet a little desperate; and desperation will often suffice to fill the post and do the work of courage. I advanced one step. I stretched out my hand, for I meant to touch her. She seemed to recede. I drew nearer: her recession⁶, still silent, became swift. A mass of shrubs, full-leaved evergreens, laurel and dense yew, intervened between me and what I followed. Having passed that obstacle, I looked and saw nothing. I waited. I said, – ‘If you have any errand to men, come back and deliver it.’ Nothing spoke or reappeared.

1 *aurora borealis: a natural electrical storm of lights*

2 *mustering: gathering together (military term)*

3 *serried: close packed*

4 *forage: search for food (military term)*

5 *sable-robed: dressed in black*

6 *recession: retreat or return*