



Ivy Education

Est. 2010

8+ English Exam Paper 1

8E.1

Name:



Spend 45 minutes on this paper.

Instructions

Spend 20 minutes on the Comprehension. **It is worth 30 marks**

Spend 25 minutes on the Composition. **It is worth 25 marks**

This paper includes 9 pages including front cover.

Comprehension (30 marks)

i Read this passage very carefully and then answer the questions that follow on the lines provided.

1. Bertie was born in South Africa, in a remote farmhouse near a place called Timbavati. It was shortly after Bertie first started to walk that his mother and father decided a fence must be put around the farmhouse to make a compound where Bertie could play in safety. It wouldn't keep the snakes out - nothing could do that - But at least Bertie would be safe now from the leopards, and the lions and the spotted hyenas. Enclosed within the compound were the lawn and gardens at the front of the house, and the stables and barns at the back - all the room a child would need or want, you might think. But not Bertie.

- The farm stretched away as far as the eye could see in all directions, twenty thousand acres of veld. Bertie's father farmed cattle, but times were hard. The rains had failed too often, and many of the waterholes had all but dried up. With fewer wildebeest and impala to prey on, the lions would sneak up on the cattle whenever they could. So Bertie's father was more often than not away from home with his men, guarding the cattle. Every time he left, he'd say the same thing: "Don't you ever open that gate, Bertie, do you hear me? There's lions out there, leopards, elephants, hyenas. You stay put, you hear?" Bertie would stand at the fence and watch him ride out, and he would be left behind with his mother, who was also his teacher. There were no schools for a hundred miles. And his mother too was always warning him to stay inside the fence. "Look what happened in Peter and the Wolf," she would say.

- His mother was often sick with malaria, and even when she wasn't sick she would be listless and sad. There were good days, days when she would play the piano for him and play hide and-seek around the compound. Or he'd sit on her lap on the sofa out on the veranda and she'd just talk and talk, all about her home in England, about how much she hated the wildness and the loneliness of Africa, and about how Bertie was everything to her.

From 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo

7. Do you think that Bertie liked staying within the compound?
Explain why you think this. (2 marks)

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8. Do you think that Bertie will stay within the compound?
Explain why you think this. (3 marks)

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9. The narrator states that “times were hard” (Line 9). Why do you think times were hard and what would be different if times were good? (5 marks)

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10. Decide if these sentences are True, False or if it Does not say in the story.
Put T, F or D by the side of each sentence. (4 marks)

- a) Bertie’s mother was often sick
- b) The fence kept out snakes
- c) The fence was built soon after Bertie started to walk
- d) The fence was made of wood

