

TOTAL: 80

LANGUAGE, COMPREHENSION & LITERATURE

QUESTION 1: Read the poem, “*The Old Wife and the Ghost*” and then answer the questions which follow:

The Old Wife and the Ghost

There was an old wife and she lived all alone
In a cottage not far from Hitchin:
And one bright night, by the full moon light,
Comes a ghost right into her kitchen.

About that kitchen neat and clean
The ghost goes pottering round.
But the poor old wife is deaf as a boot
And so hears never a sound.

The ghost blows up the kitchen fire,
As bold as bold can be;
He helps himself from the larder shelf,
But never a sound hears she.

He blows on his hands to make them warm,
And whistles aloud “Whee-whee!”
But still as a sack the old soul lies
And never a sound hears she.

From corner to corner he runs about,
And into the cupboard he peeps;
He rattles the door and bumps on the floor,
But still the old wife sleeps.

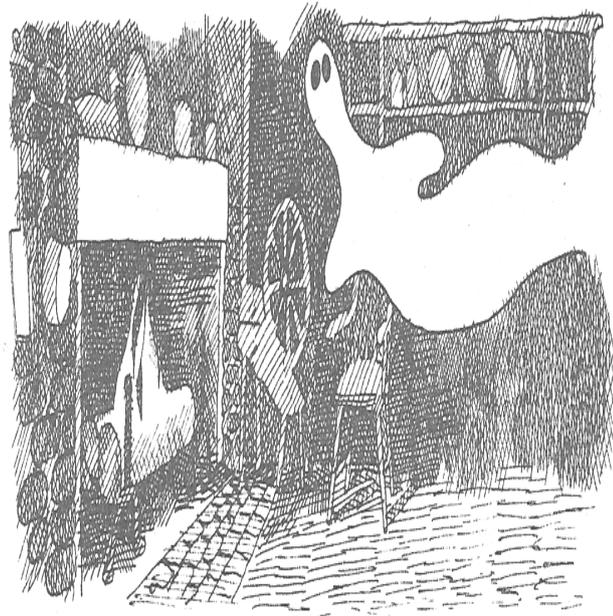
Jangle and bang go the pots and pans,
As he throws them all around;
And the plates and mugs and dishes and jugs,
He flings them all to the ground.

Madly the ghost tears up and down
And screams like a storm at sea;
And at last the old wife stirs in her bed-
And it’s ‘Drat those mice,’ says she.

Then the first cock crows and morning shows
And the troublesome ghost’s away.
But oh! What a pickle the poor wife sees
When she gets up next day.

‘Them’s tidy big mice,’ the old wife thinks,
And off she goes to Hitchin,
And a tidy big cat she fetches back
To keep the mice from her kitchen.

James Reeves



The Old Wife and the Ghost

- 1.1 Mention **two things** the ghost does in the kitchen.
- 1.2 When did the ghost visit the old lady?
- 1.3 What did the ghost do with the crockery?
- 1.4 Was the old lady’s house very tidy before the ghost arrived? Give evidence from the poem.

- 1.5 What did she mistake the ghost for?
- 1.6 What was her idea of solving the problem?
- 1.7 Would her plan work? Give a reason for your answer.
- 1.8 Give an example of onomatopoeia from the poem.
- 1.9 Quote an example of a **simile**.
- 1.10 What was the temperature like that night? Quote from the passage.
- 1.11 Give the correct noun for a woman whose husband had died.
- 1.12 Give a synonym for "**pickle**" in context of the poem.

[13]

QUESTION 2: Read the story, "*A Ghostly Tale*", through a few times. Work out the meaning of any words you are not familiar with by reading carefully and thinking about the sentence. Answer the questions below by writing down the numbers and either A,B,C and D next to the number.

A Ghostly Tale

- 2.1 **During which season did this event take place?**
 - a. winter
 - b. autumn
 - c. spring
 - d. summer
- 2.2 **Which word describes the old man before he saw the ghost?**
 - a. energetic
 - b. lazy
 - c. jolly
 - d. spirited
- 2.3 **Where was the cabin situated?**
 - a. on a mountain
 - b. in the village
 - c. next to the town
 - d. in a valley
- 2.4 **The story he told after the event could be thought of as**
 - a. factual
 - b. exaggerated
 - c. truthful
 - d. Dishonest
- 2.5 **Why is the word *ghost* written in italics?**
 - a. a title
 - b. emphasising it
 - c. real
 - d. not real
- 2.6 **Which word tells us Old Man Gibbons could not see very well?**
 - a. slumber land
 - b. dusty cabin
 - c. misty light
 - d. short-sighted

On the veranda of the general dealer's store, Old Man Gibbons rocked slowly in a chair. Beyond him lay the Drakensberg Mountains, stretched across the land like some ancient creature. As usual, he nodded off, only to be awakened by his chin dropping onto his chest. This never ceased to startle him. He would flail his arms, shake his head and then after a while, drift back into slumber land.

Inside the store, the customers were chatting noisily. Old Man Gibbons happened to tap into one of the conversations.

"They say the old lodge down by the river is haunted," said one lady.

"Yes! The ghost was spotted last week. The person who saw it was petrified!" added another.

Old Man Gibbons stirred. "A lot of hogwash," he grumbled. "No such things."

The store keeper joined in the conversation and decided to challenge Old Man Gibbons. He dared the old man to spend the night in the cabin. In return the shop keeper promised to give him two kilograms of game biltong. Biltong was one thing that could get the old man to do anything.

At dusk, with a rucksack on his back and a walking stick in his hand, the old man entered the cabin. Beads of perspiration ran down his face as the day's heat inside the cabin, engulfed him. There were spider webs festooned across the beams. A rickety chair stood in the corner, next to the fire place. With each step, the dust stirred and billowed around him. He pulled out his torch and carefully sat in the chair. He then heard a creaking sound. His short-sighted eyes scanned the room. The dusty cabin had become shrouded in a misty light. A tall, white figure stood in the doorway. The old man's jaw dropped and his eyes widened.

"We are all alone, just you and me," said the *ghost* with a voice that sounded like hissing flames.

The old man leapt to his feet and headed for the nearest exit – which happened to be a window – and he staggered up the meandering pathway. Meanwhile, in the cabin, the shop keeper and his friends chuckled. The shop keeper folded the white sheet.

A week later (between mouthfuls of biltong), the spirited, old man claimed that he ran so fast, he overtook two rabbits that were being chased by a wild cat. His story becomes more elaborate as the days grow longer.

2.7 In a story there are crises or conflicts. A crisis adds interest to the story. Which sentence below indicates a crisis?

- a. Old Man Gibbons rocked slowly in his chair.
- b. "We are all alone, just you and me," said the *ghost*.
- c. Biltong was one thing that could get the old man to do anything.
- d. He pulled out his torch and carefully sat in the chair.

2.8 The climax of the story is when it reaches its peak, the most exciting part, then the story has ended. What is the climax of this story?

- a. When Old Man Gibbons ran away from the house.
- b. When he saw the *ghost*.
- c. When he told his story.
- d. When he ate the biltong.



We can work out the meanings of words by looking at other words in the sentence. Match the underlined words from the passage with the meanings below. Write the word only.

flail

shroud

engulf

meander

- 2.9 To twist and turn -
- 2.10 To cover or hideaway-
- 2.11 To wave about-
- 2.12 To overwhelm or surround-

[12]

QUESTION 3: Refer to "A Ghostly Tale" to answer the questions below.

3.1 Write the **underlined words** said by the *ghost* in indirect (reported) speech.

[3]

QUESTION 4: In the first paragraph only, find one (1) example of each of the following: (Write the number in the margin and the word only).

- 4.1 A common noun
- 4.2 A preposition
- 4.3 An adjective
- 4.4 An auxiliary verb
- 4.5 A proper noun
- 4.6 pronouns
- 4.7 An adverb of manner
- 4.8 An adverb of place

Vocabulary

Galley – a ship

Phantom and apparitions – unreal beings

Hue – colour

Undulate – move up and down

Laud – praise

Strife - struggles

[8]

QUESTION 5: Refer to the poem, “*Haunting Images*” on the right, then answer the questions which follow:

Haunting Images

- 5.1. What is the rhyming pattern?
a. aabb b. abca c. abab d. abcb
- 5.2. Find an example of alliteration in verse 3.
Long lines of light
- 5.3. What is the moon compared to in verse 1?
a. ship b. sea c. sanvas d. srlist
- 5.4. What figure of speech is being used?
a. simile b. pun c. metaphor
- 5.5. In verse 3, what is the “fiery phantom”?
a. sun b. moon c. ocean d. land
- 5.6. Who is the poet?
- 5.7. What makes the poet forget his troubles?
a. sun b. the new day c. sea d. a ship

The moon is a ghostly galley,
Sailing on dark waters high.
The journey is the same each night.
Except for the changing sky.

The apparitions upon this ship,
Laud the break of day.
For their journey ends temporarily,
With the sun’s first ray.

The fiery phantom climbs out of the hills,
Casting long lines of light.
Ripples of colours burst forth,
Creating a vibrant sight.

The ocean below is a canvas,
Splashed with apricot and blues.
It undulates and carries to the shore,
Brushstrokes - of the artist’s hues.

The rolling cliffs and valleys beneath,
Erupt into abundant, glorious life.
It all takes my breath away -
I forget about troubles and strife.

C. Martini

[7]

QUESTION 6: Rewrite the following sentence in direct speech.

- 6.1 The old lady asked if she could buy a strong rat trap. The shop owner replied that he did not have any at that time.

[6]

QUESTION 7: Study the following sentences. Write them onto your answer sheet and indicate the subject, predicate.

- 7.1 The moon – is a ghostly galley – (2)
- 7.2 The ghost – laughs - (2)
- 7.3 A rickety chair - stood in the corner.- (2)
- 7.4 Which of the verbs in the sentences above are transitive verbs? (1)

[7]

QUESTION 8: Use conjunctions/connectives(besides ‘and’ and ‘but’) or relative pronouns to join the following sentences.
Write out the whole sentence and underline the conjunctions or changes you have made.

- 8.1 The man ran. The man saw the ghost.
- 8.2 The old man climbed through the window. The door was locked.
- 8.3 The man will not go back to the house. There are no ghosts there.

[3]

QUESTION 9: Refer to the cartoon below.

- 9.1 Write the underlined words in the cartoon next to the margin. Write the unabbreviated (long form) of these words next to them. (Write both forms of the words). (3)
- 9.2 Explain why the cartoon is amusing. What does Calvin mean in the last frame? (2)



[5]

QUESTION 10: Rewrite the following sentences with all the necessary corrections. Underline any changes you have made in your answer:

- 10.1 My friend and me are gonna have alot of fun when I sleep by her house on Saturday.
- 10.2 The team of rugby players are going to the field, they are taking me with.
- 10.3 The boy that stole my sweets is in trouble with my mom and I.

[6]

QUESTION 11: Match the figurative expression from column A with its meaning from column B. Write the question number and the correct letter only (e.g. 7 K):

Column A

- 11.1. Left high and dry
11.2. Make ends meet
11.3. Neither here nor there
11.4. In cold blood
11.5. A wet blanket
11.6. Once in a blue moon

Column B

- A live according to the money you have
B not important
C spoil sport
D very slowly
E stranded
F deliberately
G make a fuss of unimportant things
H very seldom



[6]

QUESTION 12: Study the sentences below. Rewrite it and use apostrophes to show possession or contractions.

It has been a long time since I have seen a ghost. They are seldom seen. The eyes of the ghost are usually green.

[4]