

Fidelis College English Entrance Examination

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Section A: Reading

Spend about 30 minutes on this section

Read the abridged extract below, which is taken from *Black Beauty* (1877) by Anna Sewell (1820-1878), and answer the questions that follow.

This famous novel is written in first person as the story of a horse in 19th century England. This extract is taken from chapter 18 in which Black Beauty must travel in the middle of the night to fetch a doctor for the owner's wife. John Manley is the groom who is in charge of the owner's stables.

One night, a few days after James had left, I had eaten my hay and was lying down in my straw fast asleep, when I was suddenly roused by the stable bell ringing very loud. I heard the door of John's house open, and his feet running up to the hall. He was back again in no time; he unlocked the stable door, and came in, calling out, "Wake up, Beauty! You must go well now, if ever you did;" and almost before I could think he had got the saddle on my back and the bridle on my head. He just ran round for his coat, and then took me at a quick trot up to the hall door. The squire stood there, with a lamp in his hand.

"Now, John," he said, "ride for your life—that is, for your mistress' life; there is not a moment to lose. Give this note to Dr. White; give your horse a rest at the inn, and be back as soon as you can."

John said, "Yes, sir," and was on my back in a minute. The gardener who lived at the lodge had heard the bell ring, and was ready with the gate open, and away we went through the park, and through the village, and down the hill till we came to the toll-gate. John called very loud and thumped upon the door; the man was soon out and flung open the gate.

"Now," said John, "do you keep the gate open for the doctor; here's the money," and off he went again.

There was before us a long piece of level road by the river side; John said to me, "Now, Beauty, do your best," and so I did; I wanted no whip nor spur, and for two miles I galloped as fast as I could lay my feet to the ground; I don't believe that my old grandfather, who won the race at Newmarket, could have gone faster. When we came to the bridge John pulled me up a little and patted my neck. "Well done, Beauty! good old fellow," he said. He would have let me go slower, but my spirit was up, and I was off again as fast as before. The air was frosty, the moon was bright; it was very pleasant. We came through a village, then through a dark wood, then uphill, then downhill, till after eight

miles' run we came to the town, through the streets and into the market-place. It was all quite still except the clatter of my feet on the stones—everybody was asleep. The church clock struck three as we drew up at Dr. White's door. John rang the bell twice, and then knocked at the door like thunder. A window was thrown up, and Dr. White, in his nightcap, put his head out and said, "What do you want?"

"Mrs. Gordon is very ill, sir; master wants you to go at once; he thinks she will die if you cannot get there. Here is a note."

"Wait," he said, "I will come."

He shut the window, and was soon at the door.

Questions

1. From lines 17-19, identify TWO DIFFERENT things the horse can hear. You may use your own words or quotations from the text. (2)

2. In lines 20-30, how does the writer present John Manley? Support your answer with TWO DIFFERENT quotations from the text. (4)

3. In lines 34-50, how does the writer create a sense of urgency? Support your answer with THREE DIFFERENT quotations from the text.

In this answer, you should try to identify language features, such as metaphors, similes, onomatopoeia, imagery, hyperbole, repetition, personification, and different word types: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, determiners, pronouns and conjunctions. (9)

Total marks for Section A: 15

Section B: Writing

Spend about 30 minutes on this section.

"Adventure and risk are essential parts of every childhood."

Write a persuasive piece, arguing either for or against this statement.

Your response will be marked for the strength of your argument, your use of good vocabulary, and the accurate use of spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Total marks for Section B: 15

Total marks for paper: 30