



Pocklington School
13+ English Entrance Assessment
1 hour

Read the passage below with care

Answer ALL of the questions

Do not begin until you are told to do so

**You should spend approximately 30 minutes on
Questions 1-6 (25 marks in total)**

**You should spend approximately 30 minutes planning
and writing your answer to Question 7 (25 marks)**

The following extract is from Laurie Lee's autobiography, *Cider with Rosie*. The writer is remembering one of his earliest memories. He is three years old, and has just been taken down from a cart and left on the ground, alone.

The June grass, amongst which I stood, was taller than I was, and I wept. I had never been so close to grass before. It towered above me and all around me, each blade tattooed with tiger-skins of sunlight. It was knife-edged, dark and wicked green, thick as a forest and alive with grasshoppers that chirped and chattered and leapt through the air like monkeys.

I was lost and didn't know where to move. A tropic heat oozed up from the ground, rank with sharp odours of roots and nettles. Snow-clouds of elder-blossom banked in the sky, showering upon me fumes and flakes of their sweet and giddy suffocation. High overhead ran frenzied larks, screaming, as though they were tearing the sky apart.

For the first time in my life, I was out of the sight of humans. For the first time in my life I was alone in a world whose behaviour I could neither direct nor **fathom**: a world of birds that squealed, of plants that stank, of insects that sprang about without warning. I was lost and I did not expect to be found again. I put back my head and howled, and the sun hit me smartly on the face, like a bully.

From this daylight nightmare I was awakened, as from many another, by the appearance of my sisters. They came scrambling and calling up the steep rough bank, and parting the long grass found me. Faces of roses, familiar, living; huge shining faces hung up like shields between me and the sky; faces with grins and white teeth (some broken) to be conjured up like genies with a howl, brushing off my terror with their scoldings and affection. They leaned over me – one, two, three – with their mouths smeared with red currants and their hands dripping with juice.

“There, there, it's all right, don't you wail any more. Come down 'ome and we'll stuff you with currants.”

fathom understand

5. How does the mood change after the sisters arrive? (2 marks)

6. In the fourth paragraph, the writer uses two similes to describe the sisters. Write them down and comment on how they present the sisters. (6 marks in total)

simile (1 mark)

how it presents the sisters (2 marks)

simile (1 mark)

how it presents the sisters (2 marks)

6. What do we learn about the writer's relationship with his sisters? (4 marks)

(Question 7 is on the next page.)



