

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL



YEAR 9 (13+) SCHOLARSHIP

May 2024
for entry in September 2024

ENGLISH

Name: _____

School: _____

Time allowed: 1 hour 10 minutes

Equipment needed: Pen, pencil, lined paper, eraser.

Information for candidates:

1. Write your name and school on this page.
2. Write your answers on the **separate paper** provided. Please put your name on all the sheets of paper you use.
3. There are 2 sections in this paper, section A and Section B. You should attempt both of them.
4. You should spend around 40 minutes on Section A and around 30 minutes on Section B.
5. The paper will be marked out of 40. The marks for each question or part question are indicated in square brackets [].

SECTION A

Read the poem below and answer all the questions. You are advised to use quotations and analysis in support of your answers.

Digging

By Seamus Heaney

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.

Under my window, a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. I look down

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds
Bends low, comes up twenty years away
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills
Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, going down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge
Through living roots awaken in my head.
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb
The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.

Glossary-

rump- backside

turf- surface layer of ground containing a mat of grass and roots

bog- wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation

sod- surface layer of ground containing a mat of grass and roots

curt- brief and to the point

1. How does Heaney use language to show that his father and grandfather were experts with a spade? [4 marks]
2. How does Heaney make the memories of the speaker's father and grandfather digging come to life? [4 marks]
3. What does Seamus Heaney mean when he says he digs with his pen? How does he use the parallel to digging to explain what he does for a living? [8 marks]
4. To what extent do you think that the speaker would like to be like his father? [4 marks]

SECTION B

You should select one of the titles below. You are reminded that you will be rewarded for the quality of your ideas and your imagination, and for the accurate use of spelling and punctuation.

EITHER

1. Write about looking back at specific memories of a parent or grandparent. You may write this either as a poem or prose description. You may write autobiographically, or invent a speaker/narrator. Try to have your speaker/narrator compare or contrast themselves with their parent/grandparent. [20 marks]

OR

2. Write about a young child being lost in one of the following locations-

A fairground

An aquarium

A train station.

Try to bring the setting to life and use objects and locations to help communicate to your reader how your protagonist feels. [20 marks]