



2010 English

Intermediate 1 Close Reading

Finalised Marking Instructions

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English – Intermediate 1

Close Reading

Marking Key

1. In the opening paragraph, we read that the writer’s father returned “in unusually high spirits”.

Explain **in your own words** what this tells us about the father’s character.

2 U

*Glosses of “unusually” and “high spirits”
eg he was normally (1) less cheerful (1)
Or he was more cheerful (1) than usual (1)*

2. Look at lines 3 – 6.

- (a) The writer tells us that the trip was “unspeakably exciting” (line 4).

In your own words, give **two** reasons why the family found the prospect of the trip “exciting”.

2 U

*Reference to “we weren’t the type of people” – eg this was out of character (1)
OR reference to “all he would say” – eg idea of mystery/suspense/lack of information (1)*

*OR gloss of “rash” – eg impulsive/ill-advised/impetuous/reckless (1)
OR gloss of “sudden” – eg unexpected/happening at very short notice (1)
OR gloss of “unseasonal” – eg at an unusual time of year (1)*

Any two

- (b) As well as exciting, how else did the family find the prospect of the trip?

1 U

Answer **in your own words**.

Gloss of “unnerving” – eg frightening/scary/unsettling/daunting/it made them nervous/uneasy

3. Look at lines 7 – 9.

Explain how any **one** example of the writer’s **word choice** in these lines helps emphasise the fact that the writer has pleasant memories of Christmas time when he was a boy.

2 A

Quotation of (1) and comment on (1) any one of:

happy hordes eg gives idea of enjoyment (for many) OR is alliterative

snowy streets eg (stereotypical) attractive scene OR is alliterative

(three) glorious (weeks) eg gives idea of intensity of pleasure

yuletide eg suggests nostalgia (because it is old-fashioned)

relaxation eg suggests (pleasurable) leisure, repose

school holidays (in those days) were ... eg conveys sense of approval

proper/generous

4. Look at lines 9 – 10, where the author mentions the family Rambler (a make of car).
What is surprising about the way he refers to it? **1 A**
- Makes it sound as if it was human/was alive/had emotions; personifies it*
OR reference to “steaming” + extrapolation – eg it is an unusual word to use to refer to a car/it is an internal combustion engine/or there is a lengthy journey imminent and it sounds as if it is malfunctioning
Quotation of ‘steaming’ alone = 0
5. What does “endless, stubbly, snow-blown” (lines 12 – 13) suggest about the plains? **1 A**
- They go on for ever/were repetitive/boring/unattractive/bleak*
6. Look at the sentence in lines 13 – 15.
- (a) What is the function of the words in parenthesis (dashes)? **2 A**
- They exemplify/illustrate (1)*
what is meant by an “enticing diversion” (1)
OR
They provide humour (1)
By irony/the examples not being enticing (1)
- (b) What does the fact that he did not give “so much as a sideways glance” suggest about the writer’s father? **1 U**
- He was determined to carry on OR he was not distracted by/interested in the things they passed/scenery*
7. The writer tells us that when he saw the Rocky Mountains, this was the first time he “had seen something on the horizon other than a horizon” (line 17).
What does this hint about the appearance of the countryside where he lives? **1 U**
- It is very flat/there are no hills/it is featureless*
8. Look at the expression “a winter without winter” (lines 21 – 22).
- (a) What is surprising about this expression? **1 A**
- It appears to contradict itself/idea of paradox*
- (b) Show how **other words** in the context make clear what the writer means by “a winter without winter”. **2 U**
- “warm sunlight” or “bare arms” (1)*
suggests unseasonal weather/is unusual for December (1)

9. Show with clear reference to the paragraph in lines 23 – 27 how the writer puts emphasis on the idea that his father is mean with his money.

2 A

Any one expression (1) plus comment (1) – answer may be concerned with a feature of word choice, structure, typography or content

<i>Word choice</i>	<i>writes “what am I saying?” (1)</i>	<i>which suggests/conveys inadequacy of “seldom” (1)</i>
	<i>uses “never” (1)</i>	<i>which suggests lack of precedent (1)</i>
	<i>uses “urged” (1)</i>	<i>which suggests shock at the unusual/unexpected generosity (1)</i>
	<i>“certainly not” (1)</i>	<i>underlines the rarity of this (1)</i>
<i>Structure</i>	<i>(Parallelism/similarity of) “I had seldom ... I had never” (1)</i>	<i>draws attention to the contrast/rarity (1)</i>
	<i>repetition of “never” (1)</i>	<i>confirms/underlines lack of precedent (1)</i>
	<i>use of parenthesis (1)</i>	<i>draws attention to the writer’s surprise (at his father’s behaviour) (1)</i>
	<i>pairing of “seldom ... never” or “invited ... urged” (1)</i>	<i>is use of/progression to a stronger word (1)</i>
<i>Typography</i>	<i>italics on “urged” (1)</i>	<i>suggest writer is surprised (1)</i>
<i>Content</i>	<i>asks his father if he is sure (1)</i>	<i>which suggests surprise (1)</i>
	<i>idea that this “sentiment ... had never passed his teeth before” (1)</i>	<i>confirms unprecedented nature of this invitation (1)</i>
	<i>Another example of the father’s behaviour (1)</i>	<i>+ explanation of how this highlights his meanness (1)</i>

10. Show how any **one** example of the writer's **word choice** in lines 30 – 35 effectively conveys the idea that Disneyland was an impressive place. **2 E**

enormous parking lot (1) (clearly) suggests large-scale operation (1)

a grand entrance (1) (clearly) suggests size/magnificence (1)

fabulous display (1) (clearly) suggests it was remarkable/extraordinary (1)

fabled gates (1) (clearly) suggests fame or near-magical quality (1)

Any one example (1) plus comment (1)

11. Look at lines 40 – 44.

Explain why is it appropriate for the writer to use the expression “remarkably cheerful” when referring to the “transaction” his father conducts. **2 A**

His father is in good spirits (1)

Yet he is spending (an unprecedented sum of) money (1)

*The **unexpected** nature of his demeanour must be present for full marks.*

12. Look at lines 51 – 54.

The writer tells us that his family “did it all”.

How does the **sentence structure** in these lines help convey this idea? **2 A**

List format (1)

suggests multiplicity of activities (1)

OR

Variety/number of verbs (accept “words”) used (1)

suggests diversity of activities (1)

OR

Dash implies expansion (1)

of “all” (1)

13. What is the effect of the inclusion of “actually” (line 54)? **1 A**

To show the boy's wonder/to show the realistic effect (Then);

OR

to convey irony/idea of (retrospective) whimsy at the unspectacular device (Now)

14. The writer says (line 55) that Disneyland was not as “slick and manicured” then as it was to become.
- What does this expression suggest about Disneyland today? **2 U**

*It is (more) efficient/(better or) well-organised; accept also reference to the pejorative sense of insincerity/superficiality (1) (Result)
it is very neat/has been given a face-lift/make-over/has been done up (1) (Process)*

15. The writer says that his father steered the family “deftly past a souvenir stand” (line 60). Why does this suggest the writer’s father was “returning to character”? **1 U**

He was (adroit/skilful/smart/nifty/nimble at) avoiding spending money

16. Consider the passage as a whole. Explain why any **one** aspect of this extract helps to make it an effective piece of autobiographical writing. **2 E**

The way the extract

- *uses the first person narration/is written from the writer’s point of view (1)*
 - *uses mainly sequential narrative (1)*
 - *reveals the writer’s personality (1)*
 - *recreates characters/places that have influenced the writer (1)*
 - *provides details of the writer’s history (1)*
 - *establishes setting in place/time (1)*
 - *recreates key experiences from the writer’s life (1)*
 - *establishes rapport with the reader (1)*
- + comment on appropriateness to autobiographical writing(1)

Watch for condensed evaluative answer, eg “It clearly depicts the character of the writer’s father”.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]