



TRURO SCHOOL

11+ Entrance Exam

25 January 2014

English

Section 1 (25 marks)

Time allowed – 25 minutes

This passage is taken from a fantasy novel called 'Northern Lights' by Philip Pullman. In it, a girl named Lyra has freed an enslaved warrior bear named Iorek Byrnison by returning his magical armour to him. Iorek Byrnison wants to get his revenge on the townspeople who imprisoned him. In the story, all humans have a 'daemon': spirit companions that take the form of different animals.

Iorek Byrnison bounded out of the depot and along the narrow street before turning into the main street of the town. The sentry by this time had realized what was happening, and was trying to gather his wits, but Iorek Byrnison was already turning a corner near the harbour.

People stopped to watch or scuttled out of his careering way. The sentry fired two shots in the air, and set off down the hill after the bear, spoiling the effect by skidding on the icy slope and only regaining his balance after seizing the nearest railings. Lyra was not far behind. 5

The priest's house was older than most, and made of costly bricks. Three steps led up to the front door, which was now hanging in matchwood splinters, and from inside the house came screams and the crashing and tearing of more wood. The sentry hesitated outside, his rifle at the ready; but then as passers-by began to gather and people looked out of windows from across the street, he realized that he had to act, and fired a shot into the air before running in. 10

A moment later, the whole house seemed to shake. Glass broke in three windows and a tile slid off the roof, and then a maidservant ran out, terrified, her clucking hen of a daemon flapping after her. Another shot came from inside the house, and then a full-throated roar made the servant scream. As if fired from a cannon, the priest himself came hurtling out, with his pelican daemon in a wild flutter of feathers and injured pride. 15

A rending, splintering sound made them all look back at the house. A window at ground level, obviously opening on a cellar, was being wrenched apart with a crash of glass and a screech of tearing wood. The sentry who'd followed Iorek Byrnison into the house came running out and stood to face the cellar window, rifle at his shoulder; and then the window tore open completely, and out climbed Iorek Byrnison, the bear in armour. 20

Without it, he was formidable. With it, he was terrifying. It was rust-red, and crudely riveted together: great sheets and plates of dented discoloured metal that scraped and screeched as they rode over one another. The helmet was pointed like his muzzle, with slits for eyes, and it left the lower part of his jaw bare for tearing and biting. 25

The sentry fired several shots, and the policemen levelled their weapons too, but Iorek Byrnison merely shook the bullets off like raindrops, and lunged forward in a screech and clang of metal before the sentry could escape, and knocked him to the ground. His daemon, a husky dog, darted at the bear's throat, but Iorek Byrnison took no more notice of him than he would of a fly, and dragging the sentry to him with one vast paw, he bent and enclosed his head in his jaws. Lyra could see exactly what would happen next: he'd crush the man's skull like an egg, and there would follow a bloody fight, more deaths, and more delay; and they would never get free, with or without the bear. 30 35

Without even thinking, she darted forward and put her hand on the one vulnerable spot in the bear's armour, the gap that appeared between the helmet and the great plate over his shoulders when he bent his head, where she could see the yellow-white fur dimly between the rusty edges of metal. She dug her fingers in; Iorek Byrnison was still, and the riflemen held their fire. 40

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

1. Put the following events in the order in which they occur in the extract. Number them from one to five, **where one happens first and five happens last**.

lorek Byrnison emerges, dressed in his armour	
The sentry fires at lorek Byrnison and is knocked to the ground	
lorek Byrnison bursts out of his prison and heads into town	
Lyra persuades the bear not to kill the sentry	
lorek Byrnison rips apart the priest's house	

(5 marks)

2. Choose **three** words from the list below that you feel best explain Lyra's feelings as she follows lorek Byrnison through the town:

proud frightened excitedshocked brave

Explain, in full sentences, why you chose these words in particular:

-

(3 marks)

3. There are many powerful **verbs** used to describe lorek Byrnison's exciting rampage through the town: write out **four** which you think are particularly effective and explain why:

	Verb	Explanation
1		
2		
3		
4		

(4 marks)

4. What animal forms do the daemons of the maidservant (line 16) and the sentry (line 32) take?

In what ways
do these daemons' chosen animal forms particularly suit their humans?

(4 marks)

5. Look at the description of Iorek Byrnison in his armour in the paragraph beginning on line 25:

i. What is the effect of using two very short, balanced sentences (*Without it, he was formidable. With it, he was terrifying*) to begin this paragraph?

(2 marks)

ii. Sounds are very important in this paragraph: there are several examples of **alliteration** (words which start with the same letter). Write out **two** examples, and explain how they add to the impact of the description:

a. _____

b. _____

(2 marks)

iii. There are also examples of **onomatopoeia** (words which sound like the noise they are naming): find **two** and explain their effect:

a. _____

b. _____

(2 marks)

6. In the final paragraph, why do you think that Lyra's gentle hand, and not the bullets of the sentry and policemen, manages to calm the furious bear?

(3 marks)

TOTAL /25

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English

Section 2 (25 marks)

Time allowed – 25 minutes

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

In this section you can write either a description, or a story which you make up using your imagination.

Spend a few minutes thinking and planning before you begin writing, and leave time to check through what you write.

Remember to take care with handwriting, spelling, punctuation and paragraphs, and to be adventurous and ambitious with your vocabulary and style.

EITHER

1. A Description

Describe in detail an animal which is important to you.

You could include something about

- Its appearance
- Where it lives and how it likes its home to be
- How it moves and what sounds it makes
- How this animal makes you feel

OR

2. A Story

Imagine that you and your daemon are on the run in a town centre, trying to avoid being caught by frightening pursuers. Where would you go and what would you do?

You should think about

- Describing the animal form your daemon would take and why (children's daemons can change at any time!)
- Where you might try to hide in the town – describe the best hiding places
- The reactions of any townspeople who see you
- How your story ends – are you caught or do you and your daemon manage to run to freedom?

Now write your name at the top of the sheet of paper and write the number of the question you have chosen in the margin. Begin writing when you are told to do so.