

Name.....

Date of Birth.....

Current School.....

Princethorpe College



YEARS 7 and 8

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

SAMPLE ENGLISH PAPER

ONE HOUR

Examiner's Initials	
Section A	
Section B	
Total	%

SECTION A

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

In this extract from *The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett*, Mary is playing alone in the garden of the big house where she is living. She is fascinated by a walled garden where nobody has been for ten years. Yesterday she found a key on the ground but could not find a door.

From *The Secret Garden*

by *Frances Hodgson Burnett*

1 Mary skipped round all the gardens and round the orchard, resting every few minutes. At length she went to her own special walk and made up her mind to see if she could skip the whole length of it. It was a good long skip and she began slowly, but before she had gone half-way down the path she was so hot and breathless that she was obliged to stop. She did not mind
5 much, because she had already counted up to thirty. She stopped with a little laugh of pleasure, and there, lo and behold, was the robin swaying on a long branch of ivy. He had followed her and he greeted her with a chirp. As Mary skipped toward him she felt something heavy in her pocket strike against her at each jump, and when she saw the robin she laughed again.
‘You showed me where the key was yesterday,’ she said. ‘You ought to show me the door
10 today; but I don’t believe you know!’

The robin flew from his swinging spray of ivy on to the top of the wall and he opened his beak and sang a loud, lovely trill, merely to show off. Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off – and they are nearly always doing it.

15 Mary Lennox had heard a great deal about Magic in her Ayah’s¹ stories, and she always said what happened almost at that moment was magic.

One of the nice little gusts of wind rushed down the walk, and it was a stronger one than the rest. It was strong enough to wave the branches of the trees, and it was more than strong enough to sway the trailing sprays of untrimmed ivy hanging from the wall. Mary had stepped close to the robin, and suddenly the gust of wind swung aside some loose ivy trails, and more
20 suddenly still she jumped toward it and caught it in her hand. This she did because she had seen something under it – a round knob which had been covered by the leaves hanging over it. It was the knob of a door.

She put her hands under the leaves and began to pull and push them aside. Thick as the ivy hung, it nearly all was a loose and swinging curtain, though some had crept over wood and iron.
25 Mary’s heart began to thump and her hands to shake a little in her delight and excitement. The robin kept singing and twittering away and tilting his head on one side, as if he were as excited as she was. What was this under her hands which was square and made of iron and which her fingers found a hole in?

30 It was the lock of the door which had been closed ten years and she put her hand in her pocket,
drew out the key and found it fitted the keyhole. She put the key in and turned it. It took two
hands to do it, but it did turn.

35 And then she took a long breath and looked behind her up the long walk to see if anyone was
coming. No one was coming. No one ever did come, it seemed, and she took another long
breath, because she could not help it, and she held back the swinging curtain of ivy and pushed
back the door which opened slowly – slowly.

Then she slipped through it, and shut it behind her, and stood with her back against it, looking
about her and breathing quite fast with excitement, and wonder, and delight.

She was standing inside the secret garden.

¹ *Ayah – a nurse or nanny, who looks after children, in India. Mary was brought up in India before being sent to live in England.*

Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE question from Section B.

SECTION A

- Allow 30 minutes for Section A.
- Look carefully at the marks given for each question.
- Be sure to write enough to earn **all** the marks.
- Use **full sentences** when answering.

Questions

1. How would you describe Mary’s mood in the first paragraph? Use two short quotations to explain your answer.

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(3 marks)

2. What two things about the robin give the impression that he recognises Mary?

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(2 marks)

3. “As Mary skipped towards him she felt something heavy in her pocket”. What is this?

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(1 mark)

4. Why had Mary not been able to find the door before now?

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(2 marks)

5. How is the door knob suddenly revealed to her?

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(3 marks)

6. a) What does the writer compare the ivy to?

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(1 mark)

b) Explain two things the comparison tells us about the ivy?

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(2 marks)

7. a) How do we know it was difficult to open the lock of the door?

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(1 mark)

b) Why do you think it was difficult?

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(1 mark)

8. Why do you think the writer repeats the word 'slowly' (line 35)? Give two reasons.

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(2 marks)

9. How does the writer show that Mary is excited:

a) When she finds the door?

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(1 mark)

b) When she is in the garden?

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(1 mark)

10. Why do you think the writer has given the final sentence a paragraph of its own?

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(1 mark)

11. a) Why do you think Mary felt what happened was Magic?

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(3 marks)

b) Why do you think the writer gave this word 'Magic' a capital letter?

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(1 mark)









