

## Answer sheet

### Listening test

*(Read the script, after handing out the listening test sheet to students)*

Narrator: You will hear a conversation between a tutor and two students who are preparing for an English literature test. First you have some time to look at questions 21 to 24.

[20 seconds]

Listen carefully and answer questions 21 to 24

Tutor: Hello Lorna, Ian. Glad you could make it. You're the only two who put your names down for this literature tutorial so let's get started, shall we? I want to run over some aspects of the novel, *The Secret Garden*, with you before the test next week. Be sure to take some notes and ask questions if you need to.

Ian: Hey Lorna, have you got a spare pen?

Lorna: Sure, here you are.

Tutor: Okay, so, the story follows two key characters – you should refer to them as protagonists – who go by the names of Mary Lennox and Colin Craven. The story is set shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, and the narrative tracks the development of the protagonists as they learn to overcome their own personal troubles together.

Lorna: That's quite a common storyline, isn't it?

Tutor: Yes, you're right, Lorna. So, what can you tell me about the character of Mary?

Lorna: Well, in the beginning she is an angry, rude child who is orphaned after a cholera outbreak and forced to leave India and move to the United Kingdom to her uncle's house in Yorkshire.

Tutor: That's right – and there she meets Colin who spends his days in an isolated room, believing himself to be permanently crippled with no hope of ever gaining the ability to walk. The two strike up a friendship and gradually learn – by encouraging each other – that they can both become healthy, happy and fulfilled in life.

Ian: Will we need to remember a lot of these details for the exam?

Tutor: Just the basic outline. Examiners don't want to read a plot summary – they know what the book is about. Focus on narrative techniques instead, such as point of view.

Lorna: What's that mean?

Tutor: It's all about how we see the story. This story, for example, is written from the perspective of what is called an "omniscient narrator". Omniscient means all-knowing. So, as readers we get to see how all the characters feel about things, what they like and don't like, and what their motivations are in the story.

Narrator: Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at questions 25 to 30.

[20 seconds]

Now listen and answer questions 25 to 30.

Ian: Won't it be hard to write a technical analysis? After all, it's a kids' book.

Tutor: Well, it was initially pitched at adults you know, but over the years it has become seen as a more youth-orientated work. And you're right in a sense – the simple vocabulary and absence of foreshadowing make the story very easy to follow and ideally suited for children. But that doesn't mean there isn't much to analyse. Look at the symbolism, for instance.

Lorna: Symbols are things, right? Material things – like objects – that stand for abstract ideas.

Tutor: Absolutely, yes. And the author uses many of them. There's the robin redbreast, for example, which symbolises the wise and gentle nature that Mary will soon adopt – note that the robin is described as "not at all like the birds in India". Roses are used as well – as a personal symbol for Mistress Craven – you'll see they're always mentioned alongside her name. And Mistress Craven's portrait can also be interpreted as a symbol of her spirit.

Ian: Are symbols just another name for motifs?

Tutor: No, motifs are a bit different. They don't have as direct a connection with something the way that a symbol does. Motifs are simply recurring elements of the story that support the mood.

Lorna: Are there any in this novel?

Tutor: Yes, two very important ones. The Garden of Eden is a motif. It comes up a few times in connection with the garden of the story. And then you've got the role that secrets play in the story. In the beginning, everything is steeped in secrecy, and slowly the characters share their secrets and in the process move from darkness to lightness, metaphorically, but also in the case of Colin, quite literally. His room in the beginning has the curtains drawn, and he appears at the end in the brightness of the garden.

Ian: Anything else we need to know about?

Tutor: Yes. Nearly all novels explore universal concepts that everyone has experienced – things like love, family, loneliness, friendship. These are called themes. The Secret Garden has a few themes

that all centre on the idea of connections. The novel explores, for example, the way that health can determine and be determined by our outlook on life. As Colin's health improves, so too do his perceptions of his strength and possibility. The author also examines the link between our environment and our physical and emotional prosperity. The dark, cramped rooms of the manor house stifle the development of our protagonists; the garden and natural environments allow them to blossom, just as the flowers do. Finally, this book looks at connections between individuals, namely Mary and Colin. This necessity of human companionship is the novel's most significant theme – because none of their development as individuals would have occurred without their knowing each other. Well, that about sums it up, I think.

Lorna: That's a great help, thanks.

Ian: Yes, thanks very much.

**Narrator:**

That is the end of section 3. You now have half a minute to check your answers.

### Listening test answers

21. The Secret Garden

22. (the) 20th/twentieth century

23. walk

24. motivations/motivation

25. abstract ideas

26. roses

27. dark(ness) to light(ness)

28. health

29. environment

30. human companionship

### Reading test answers

*The reading test is on the sheet which should be handed out to the test takers.*

Each question correctly answered scores 1 mark. Correct spelling is needed in all answers.

1. FALSE

2. TRUE

3. NOT GIVEN

4. FALSE

5. TRUE

6. FALSE

7. TRUE

8. C

9. C

10. B

11. A

12. D

13. C