

SHERBORNE SCHOOL.

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION, 1953.

English.

(1½ hours).

Answer all questions. Write the answers to parts A and B on separate sheets, and hand them in separately.

A.

Well do I call to mind the very week
When I was first entrusted to the care
Of that sweet valley; when its paths, its shores,
And brooks were like a dream of novelty
To my half-infant thoughts; that very week
While I was roving up and down alone
Seeking I knew not what, I chanced to cross
One of those open fields, which, shaped like ears,
Make green peninsulas on Esthwaite's lake.
Twilight was coming on, yet through the gloom
Appeared distinctly on the opposite shore
A heap of garments as if left by one
Who might have been there bathing. Long I watched,
But no one owned them; meanwhile the calm lake
Grew dark with all the shadows on its breast,
And, now and then, a fish up-leaping snapped
The breathless stillness. The succeeding day,
Those unclaimed garments telling a plain tale
Drew to the spot an anxious crowd; some looked
In passive expectation from the shore,
While from a boat others hung o'er the deep,
Sounding with grappling irons and long poles.
At last the dead man 'mid that beauteous scene of trees
and hills and water, bolt upright rose, with his ghastly
face, a spectre shape of terror, yet no soul-debasing fear,
young as I was, a child not nine years old, possessed me,
for my inner eye had seen such sights before, among the
shining streams of faëry land, the forest of romance.

A precious treasure had I long possessed
A little yellow, canvas-coloured book,
A slender abstract of the Arabian tales;
And, from companions in a new abode,
When first I learnt that this dear prize of mine
Was but a block hewn from a mighty quarry—

That there were four large volumes, laden all
With kindred matter, 'twas to me, in truth,
A promise scarcely earthly. Instantly,
With one not richer than myself, I made
A covenant that each should lay aside
The moneys he possessed, and hoard up more,
Till our joint savings had amassed enough
To make the book our own. Through several months,
In spite of all temptation, we preserved
Religiously that vow; but firmness failed,
Nor were we ever masters of our wish.

Wordsworth.

1. A passage in the middle of this extract has been set out as prose. Rewrite it correctly as verse. [5 marks.]
2. Give a short (about 100 words), clear and consecutive account in prose of the incidents described in the poem, beginning: 'Wordsworth could clearly remember his first visit to the valley in childhood' [30 marks.]
3. State briefly what you consider Wordsworth has gained by telling his story in verse. [10 marks.]

B.

4. Connect the following ideas in two clear and well-sounding sentences:—
Night—the sea-wall—built centuries before—protection for the village—storm—high-tide—waves—sudden breach—growing wider—the flood—the people—the houses—the cattle—farmers—roofs—panic—cold—daylight. [15 marks.]
5. *Either*: Write a short essay on one of the following topics:—
The haunt of the "barrow-boy."
The autobiography of a tree.
An elephant in Piccadilly Circus.
Or: Describe the situation as seen by the two participants in one of the following situations:—
A big-game hunter hunting a tiger.
A pirate captain making a prisoner walk the plank.
A headmaster having an interview with a parent. [40 marks.]

[TURN OVER