



Highgate English Exemplar 1 Example Answers

Cider with Rosie

## Question 1:

Explanation: This is a one-mark question, with only two lines provided for an answer, so we don't need a long and involved response. In fact, though we are given lines 1-10 from which to get our answer, we find the best information in the first sentence: "and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began." We are not told to answer in our own words, nor are we told to quote, so our options are fairly open for this question.

### Sample answer:

We could just quote from the passage:

**He felt, 'bewilderment and terror'.**

This is short, but for a mark, it should be plenty. Alternatively, we could paraphrase:

**He felt puzzled and petrified.**

Either of these answers should get the mark. While more explanation is possible, it isn't necessary, and will waste time we need for higher-mark questions.

## Question 2:

Explanation: This question is twice the size of the first, both in marks available and space provided for the answer. However, we are again given pretty free rein on answer format. The key to this question is to restrict our answer to the grass. There is plenty else mentioned in this section of text, so it's important not to get off track with some of the non-grass related description in lines 7-10. Because it's worth two marks, we're going to do what the question asks – provide two details that make the grass seem strange. However, we're going to add a brief bit of explanation for each, just to be safe.

### Sample answer:

**The first detail is, 'tattooed with tiger-skins of sunlight'. This is strange because it makes the grass sound like a prowling tiger, about to pounce. The second detail is, 'knife-edged'. This is strange because it makes the grass sound sharp and dangerous, like a weapon.**

### Question 3:

This question is worth more than the first two combined and is quite specific about what information we need to provide, and how. While we are asked to provide a word or short phrase, it's very important to choose something with enough detail to allow us to get full marks for the question. The first step is finding a relevant quote, which will get us one mark. Then we need to explain the quote as instructed, including what it means, its associations (what it makes us think of, or we often relate it to) and how this shows his happiness, for the remaining four marks. Note that these marks don't seem to be set in stone. Adding some extra information about associations, for example, might pick up an extra mark missed out on the meaning section. However, it is important to try to address each part of the assignment to be sure of full marks.

Sample answer:

**Word or phrase: “faces hung up like shields” (1 mark – relevant quote)**

**Associations and what these show: This means that, because his sisters are bigger than he, their faces are above him, coming between him and what he finds frightening (1 mark - meaning). The phrase makes me think of the shields used by knights in the middle ages to protect themselves from danger on the battlefield (1 mark - association). Just like a shield, his sisters have arrived to protect him from the dangers around him (1 mark – relating association to the sisters). This shows that, in his state of terror, he finds his sisters to be a comforting and welcome source of protection, bringing him happiness with their familiar, guarding presence (1 mark, how they bring him happiness).**

### Question 4:

This question is split into two parts – a. and b. However, it's not mentioned how the total seven marks are to be divided between the two sections. This means that we need to pay careful attention to the instructions in the question, and to be sure that we've followed them in our answer.

Part a. asks us to describe the mood and atmosphere in the final paragraphs, discuss how it makes us feel, and to choose words and phrases as examples of how the author creates this mood and influences our feelings. We have to be careful not to mix up the atmosphere with our feelings, so we will discuss them separately. Similarly, we don't need to get into meanings and associations in

part a., as that's what part b. asks us to do. To be safe, I'm going to pick 3 fairly different phrases, and discuss them each in turn, in both parts a. and b. below. Note that I'm going to assign marks fairly conservatively, so will need to write a bit more as a result.

Sample answer:

- a.) In the final paragraphs of the text, the author uses phrases such as, 'last year of the First World War', 'treasure' and 'beginning of a life' (1 mark – relevant quotes) to create a mood of optimism and hope (1 mark – mood created). The promising, expectant atmosphere of their new home makes me feel happy for the author and his family, and excited to see what the future will hold for them (1 mark – atmosphere and feelings).
- b.) The 'last year of the First World War' brought an end to a conflict that cost many people, from many countries, their lives. This makes me think of a dark, terrible time drawing to a close, and of better days ahead, creating a sense of optimism and hope (1 mark - meaning, association of the first phrase). The word 'treasure' could mean anything – a literal treasure or something with special meaning for the author alone. However, the word makes me think of stumbling across a hidden pirate's treasure, with riches uncountable and endless possibility. This makes me excited for the author and his family, and for the 'rich' future they may have in their new home (1 mark - meaning, association of the second phrase). Finally, the phrase, 'beginning of a life' means the new life the author and his family are starting in their new home. The phrase makes me think of a newly born baby, and all of the possibility that lies in its future. This makes me feel happy for the family in their new adventure, and eager to find out how it turns out (1 mark – meaning, association of the third phrase). Together, these words and phrases create a feeling of hope, optimism and excitement for the author, and a strong desire to find out what happens to them in the future (1 mark – summing up. It's very probable I picked up this mark elsewhere as I have provided more than enough for the full seven marks, but it's best to be safe).