

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION**ENGLISH****2018**

Time 1½ hours

Name:**School:****Instructions:**

Answers to be written on separate sheets provided.
Please ensure that you put your name and school on each sheet.

Answer **all** questions and leave yourself ten minutes for checking through.
Poor handwriting and presentation will be penalised.

Section A – Reading

Read the following poem and answer the questions opposite:

Football After School

You'll be one of them in a few years,
warpaint slicked over your face -
your common language jeers,
dribbling the sun about the place
with the premature swagger 5
of manhood, butting it with your head:
your school tie a stiff striped dagger.

Yes, soon you'll be picking scabs
of kisses off your skin as each kick
makes you dwarf a tree, and stab 10
a flower: the unset homework
between margins of this makeshift pitch
teaching you more than a textbook
how to survive any monster's switch.

Yet as I look at your porcelain skin, 15
their granite jowls, I wonder if you'll ever
know how to dodge bruises on your shins
from studded boots, be clever
enough to tackle fouls with something
more than inkstained fists and feet. Perhaps 20
you'll be too vulnerable for living -

not hooligan enough to trample
into the sod your shadow that grows
twice as fast as yourself, to sample
punches below the belt from one you know 25
without flinching. I can't prevent
crossbones on your knees
turn bullies into cement -

or confiscate the sun
they'll puncture and put out. 30
In their robust world I'm no Amazon.
I can only scream inside without a shout

for you not to inherit my fragility:
never to love too much or be aged
as I was by youth's anxiety.

35

Patricia McCarthy

Questions

Please answer in full sentences and justify fully your answers; exploring and analysing the writers' techniques will be more highly rewarded than simply identifying them.

1. "You'll be one of them" (Line 1) What is the speaker's son going to be in a few years time?

(1 marks)

2. Pick out two quotes that the speaker uses to describe her son in the third stanza (Lines 15 - 21). Briefly comment on why each quote is used effectively.

(4 marks)

3. What does the mother realise she is unable to do in lines 26-35?

(4 marks)

4. "...this makeshift pitch / teaching you more than a textbook..." (Lines 12-13). What lessons will her son learn?

(3 mark)

5. Why did McCarthy choose to name this poem 'Football After School'?

(3 marks)

6. How does McCarthy present the feelings of the speaker in a memorable way in this poem?

(10 marks)

Total: 25 marks

Now turn over and complete Section B.

Section B - Writing

You will be marked on the quality and accuracy of your writing.

Choose ONE of the following essay choices:

- **Describe the scene from your position on the bank of a river.**
- **“Homework is a pointless activity that should be banned.”
Discuss.**
- **Write a story entitled, “The Argument”.**

Total 25 Marks

