

READING PASSAGE

The following extract is set in 1857 in a Victorian menagerie (exotic animal collection) belonging to Mr Jamrach. Jaffy, a young boy, is the main character. He is visiting the menagerie because he would like to work there.

Mr Jamrach led me through the lobby and into the menagerie. The first room was a parrot room, a fearsome screaming place of mad round eyes, crimson breasts that beat against bars, wings that flapped against their neighbours, blood red, royal blue, gypsy yellow, grass green. The birds were crammed along perches. Macaws hung upside down here and there, 5
batting their white eyes, and small green parrots flittered about our heads in drifts. A host of cockatoos looked down from on high over the shrill madness, high crested, creamy breasted. The screeching was like laughter in hell.

10 My eyes watered. My ears hurt.

‘This is how they like it!’ Jamrach said, laughing. ‘They flock.’

‘They’re crying out for parrots,’ Tim Linver said sagely, bobbing alongside with a loose and cocky gait.

‘Who is?’ I replied.

15 ‘Customers is.’

I turned my head. Small ones, pretty things, blue, red, green, yellow, in rows behind the wire, good as gold and quiet.

‘My parakeets,’ said Jamrach. ‘Lovely birds.’

20 ‘In and out in no time, this lot.’ Tim rocked back on his heels, speaking like an expert, as if the entire sales operation belonged to him.

The second room was quieter. Hundreds of birds, like sparrows but done out in all the colours of the rainbow, in long boxes. A wall of bluebirds, breasts the colour of rose sherbet. The air, fluty with song, like early morning.

25 ‘Six shillings a pair,’ Tim said.

The third and last bird room was completely silent. All the way up to the ceiling, tiny wooden cages piled on top of one another, in each one a bird just the right size to fill the space, all of them mute and still. More than anything I’d seen, this room bothered me. I wondered if Mr Jamrach would 30
let me have one. I could tame it and it would fly free in our room and sing.

Out into the dazzling yard. A camel chewed behind the bars. A camel has to chew like it has to breathe. The animals were the stuff of fairy tales, the black bear with the white bib, the sideways-looking eye of the baby elephant, the head of the giraffe, immense, coming down at me from the sky to wet me with the heat of its flexing nostrils. I grew light of mind 35
from the gorgeous stench. A wilderness steamed in the air all about me. And then I saw the tiger in his cage, with a lion on one side and some dog things on the other. The lion was a majestic and dreadful cat with the stern, sad face of a professor and wild billowing hair. He looked me in the eye 40
for a whole moment before turning away in total indifference. A thick, pink

tongue licked out, caressing his nostrils. The hair stood up on the backs of the dog things. The tiger paced, rippling, thick tail striking the air. Patterns like little black fishes swam on his back. Scimitars, blades, dashes, black on gold, black on white. Heavy-headed, lower jaw hanging slack, backwards and forwards, steady:

45 three paces and a half – turn —
 three paces and a half – turn —
 three paces and a half —

 ‘See!’ said Jamrach. ‘This is the bad boy. He knows he’s been a bad
50 boy, he is shamed, see.’
 ‘Has he got a name?’
 ‘Not yet. He hasn’t found his buyer yet.’
 ‘Who buys a tiger?’ I asked.
 ‘Zoos,’ Tim said.

55 ‘Not just zoos,’ Jamrach said, ‘people who collect.’
 We went up a ladder to a place where there was a beast like a pie, a
 great lizard mad and grinning, and monkeys, many monkeys, a stew of
 nature, a bone pile of it, a wall, a dream of small faces. Baby things. No,
 ancient, impossibly old things.

60 ‘And here...’ Jamrach, with some showmanship, whipped the lid off
 a low round basket. Snakes, thick, green and brown, muscled, lay faintly
 flexing upon one another like ropes coiled high on the quay. ‘Snappy
 things, these,’ Jamrach said, putting back the lid and tying a rope round it.

65 That was all I ever wanted. To stay among the animals for ever and
 ever and look into their eyes whenever I felt like it. So when, back in the
 smoky office, Mr Jamrach offered me a job, I could only cry, ‘Oh yes!’

**THE NORTH LONDON INDEPENDENT GIRLS'
SCHOOLS' CONSORTIUM**

Group 2

**YEAR 7
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

ENGLISH

Friday 6 January 2017

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

First Name:

Surname:

READING
RAW SCORE
(out of 40)

→

SCALED
READING

→

(mark out
of 50)

WRITING
CONTENT
RAW SCORE
(out of 40)

+

TECHNICAL
ACCURACY
RAW SCORE
(out of 10)

} TOTAL

WRITING

→

(mark out
of 50)

TOTAL

%

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE ANSWER BOTH PARTS OF THE PAPER

Part A: Reading (40 minutes)

- Spend 10 minutes reading the passage on the insert and the questions in this booklet.
- You may mark the passage by underlining words and phrases.
- Do not write anything in your booklet during this time.
- You will be told when the 10 minutes are over.

**Spend 30 minutes writing your answers
in this answer booklet.**

- You will be told when 40 minutes are up, but you may start Part B when you are ready.

Part B: Writing (40 minutes)

- Spend 40 minutes writing on the lined paper provided.
- Put your first name and surname at the top of each page.
- If you have time, you may go back to Part A.

**YOU MAY WRITE IN
EITHER INK OR PENCIL**

You will be told when you have 5 minutes left.

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE TO READ
THE QUESTIONS**

PART A: READING (40 minutes)

After you have spent about 10 minutes reading the passage, spend about 30 minutes answering the questions.

The mark at the end of each question is an indication of how much you should write for each answer.

1. Lines 1–9.

Select three words or short phrases which show that the parrot room is noisy.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

3 marks

2. Lines 10–11.

Jaffy and Mr Jamrach have different reactions to the conditions in the parrot room.

(a) What are Jaffy's reactions?

.....
.....
.....

2 marks

(b) What are Mr Jamrach's reactions?

.....
.....
.....

3 marks

3. Lines 12–20.

What impressions are we given of Tim Linver’s character? Find two words or phrases and explain what each one tells us about his character.

Word or phrase	What it tells us about his character
(i)
(ii)


4 marks

4. Lines 21–24.

The second room is more pleasant than the first. Find two words or phrases which create this impression and, for each, explain how the effect is achieved.

Word or phrase creating pleasant impression	Effect of description
(i)
.....
.....
.....
(ii)
.....
.....
.....


6 marks

5. Lines 26–30.

Jaffy says about the third room, ‘more than anything I’d seen, this room bothered me’. In your **own words**, explain three things that ‘bother’ Jaffy about this room.

(i)

.....

(ii)

.....

(iii)

.....


3 marks

6. Lines 38–39.

The lion is ‘a majestic ... cat with the stern, sad face of a professor and wild billowing hair’. What impressions of the lion does the writer give us in this description?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3 marks

7. Lines 42–48.

How does the writer create a powerful description of the tiger **and** the conditions in which it lives? Discuss **three** techniques, such as word choice, imagery, structure, etc.

(i)

.....
.....

(ii)

.....
.....

(iii)

.....
.....

6 marks

8. Jaffy describes the animals vividly. What do the following descriptions tell us about how he feels upon encountering the animals?

(a) *'the animals were the stuff of fairy tales'* (line 32)

.....
.....
.....

2 marks

(b) *'a stew of nature'* (lines 57–58)

.....
.....
.....

2 marks

9. Look back over the **whole extract**. Do you think that Mr Jamrach is a good or a bad animal keeper? Give **three reasons** for your opinion, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

My opinion	Evidence from the text
(i)
(ii)
(iii)

6 marks

Total marks for Reading Section: 40 marks

Please turn over the page for Part B: WRITING

PART B: WRITING (40 minutes)

There are two tasks in this section. You must attempt both of them. Spend 20 minutes on each. The quality of your writing is more important than the length. Aim to write about a page on each task on the lined paper provided.

1. The next day, Jaffy begins his job at Jamrach's menagerie. Using the following lines to get you started, write about his first day at work.

I had expected to be feeding the animals and cleaning their cages on my first day. However, events were not as I had anticipated ...

2. 'Keeping animals in zoos is wrong.'
Do you agree with this statement? Give your personal opinion, backing up your points with examples.

20 marks

20 marks

For Markers only:

**Content
and Style**

40 marks

**Taking the two writing pieces together,
award an overall mark for Technical Accuracy**

10 marks

Total marks for Writing Section: 50 marks

