

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice 1

## SMSS MYE 2022

The cluster of paddy fields round his hut seemed to stretch forever. Old Uncle Chui himself had never been beyond to find out. At any rate, there were no houses within a two kilometre walk in any direction. The paddy was cool to the eye in the time of rain. At other times, the land was parched and the paddy appeared baked brown. The earth cracked while the hut that stood on it faced south towards the road. Occasionally, there were cars, **but the cars played so small a part in his consciousness**. If he needed anything, which was rarely, he went only as far as the house of the village headman, the Pu Yai Ban, at the eastern edge of the paddy on the canal. Just across the way was the market, but he never went to market. He needed nothing. He planted rice and at harvest time, could pick up as many fallen grains as he liked. When the rains came, he was ready for any pale movement in the water. He did not wonder where the fish came from. They were there, from early morning, big fresh fish, asking to be caught. Once he had stocked up his larder with fish, vegetables were a minor matter. Some grew all by themselves in the flooded paddy.

(a) At the beginning of the text, the writer describes the effect of the heat on the land. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 emphasises the impact of the intense heat. Support your ideas with **three** details from Paragraph 1.

– [Q] ‘the land was parched’ [E] shows that the land was very dry / arid / had been dried out [R] owing to the high heat.

– [Q] ‘the paddy appeared baked brown’ [R] suggests that the heat was so severe that [E] the colour of the paddy had changed from green to brown / it had caused the colour of the paddy to change.

– [Q] ‘The earth cracked’ [R] suggests that the heat was so oppressive [E] that it left crevices / fissures in the land.

(b) In Paragraph 1, why did the cars play ‘so small a part in his consciousness’?

**Clue:** At any rate, there were no houses within a two kilometre walk in any direction.

**Old Chui had no use for them.**

(X) everything we needed was within walking distance (and so?)

## Practice 2

CGSS Prelims 2022

Rafaela Cortes spent the morning barefoot, sweeping both dead and living things from over and under beds, from behind doors and shutters, through archways, along the veranda, sweeping them all across the deep shadows and luminous sunlight carpeting the cool tile floors. Her slender arms worked the broom industriously through the air which was already thick with suffocating heat. Along the floor, her feet followed, printing their moisture in dark footprints that the tiles ate up. Every morning, a small pile of assorted insects and tiny animals — moths and spiders, lizards and beetles — collected, their brittle bodies tossed in waves along the floor, a cloudy hush of sandy soil, cobwebs, and human hair.

(a) At the beginning of the text, Rafaela was cleaning the house in the morning. Explain how the language used in Paragraph 1 indicates the morning's weather. Support your ideas with **two** details from Paragraph 1.

– [Q] 'air which was already thick with suffocating heat' [E] shows that it was so humid [R] that the atmosphere / air / surrounding was stifling / one could not breathe.

– [Q] 'Along the floor, her feet followed, printing their moisture in dark footprints that the tiles ate up' [E] shows that even her feet were perspiring, [R] suggesting the severe heat she was experiencing.

## Practice 3

CGSS MYE 2022

Nathan Rand was on his way back to the village after an early morning of gathering medicinal plants when he heard her screams. He dropped his specimen bag and ran to her aid. As he sprinted, he shrugged his short-barrelled shotgun from his shoulder. When alone in the jungle, one always carried a weapon. Before him, a boundless sea of green spread to the horizon in all directions. It was as if the entire world were just forest. The only breaks in the featureless expanse of the continuous canopy were the occasional giant trees that poked their leafy crowns above their brethren, great monsters of the forest that served as nesting sites for birds.

(a) At the beginning of the text, Nathan observes the jungle he was in. Explain what the language tells the reader about the characteristics of the forest. Support your ideas with **three** details from Paragraph 1 as in.

– [Q] 'a boundless sea of green spread to the horizon in all direction' [E] shows that the forest is so extensive that it seems to stretch endlessly in every direction, [R] emphasising the immense size and expanse of the forest.

OR

– [Q] 'It was as if the entire world were just forest' [E] shows that the forest is so extensive that it seems to stretch endlessly, [R] emphasising the immense size and expanse of the forest.

– [Q] 'the featureless expanse of the continuous canopy' [E] shows the forest is dense and lush with vegetation, so much so that every inch of the land is covered, [R] suggesting the dominance and abundance of vegetation.

– [Q] 'great monsters of the earth' [E] shows that there are trees in the forest that are extremely

large and tower over others, [R] suggesting that the forest is a very mature and old one.

#### Practice 4

*BWSS Prelims 2023*

I wonder why the house was built like that, sideways, with a windowless white wall along facing the road; perhaps in former times, before the railway, the road ran in a different orientation altogether, passing directly in front of the front door. Anything is possible. Miss Vavasour, the landlady, is vague on dates but thinks a cottage was first put up here early in the last century and then was added on to haphazardly over the years. That would account for the jumbled look of the place, with small rooms leading to bigger ones, and windows facing blank walls, and low ceilings throughout. The pine floors sound a nautical note, as does my spindle-backed swivel chair.

(a) Miss Vavasour claimed that the 'cottage was first put up here early in the last century and then was added on to haphazardly'. Explain how this claim is supported with reference to **two** pieces of evidence from Paragraph 2

- [Q] 'That would account for the jumbled look of the place' [E] suggests that the place looks disorganised / messy due to its poor planning over the years.
- [Q] 'the pine floors sound a nautical note' [E] suggests that the floors of the house have started to creak due to its old age.

*Accept answers that are reasonable.*

*BWSS Prelims 2023*

When I was here all those years ago, the Cedars was a summer house, for rent by the fortnight or the month. During all of June each year a rich doctor and his large, raucous family infested it, laughing at us and throwing stones from behind the unbreachable barrier of the gate, and after them, a mysterious middle-aged couple came, who spoke to no one, and grimly walked their hairless dog in silence at the same time every morning down Station Road to the town.

(b) In Paragraph 3, the writer describes the tenants at the Cedars. Explain how the language used in the paragraph shows how unlikeable the tenants were. Support your answer with **three** details from Paragraph 3.

- [Q] 'a rich doctor and his large, raucous family infested it' [E] shows that the tenants were loud and rowdy and the writer likened them to pests, [R] suggesting that they were bothersome and despicable.
- [Q] 'laughing at us and throwing stones from behind' [E] shows that the tenants attacked others for no apparent reason, [R] suggesting that they were aggressive / hostile / bullies in the community / disrespectful.
- [Q] 'spoke to no one, and grimly walked their hairless dog in silence' [E] shows that the middle-aged tenants were always unfriendly, moody, and did not engage with their neighbours, [R] suggesting their aloofness and unfriendly behaviour.

