



Independent Schools
Examinations Board

COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AT 11+

ENGLISH

PAPER 1: READING

Monday 16 January 2012

Please read this information before the examination starts.

- You have 5 minutes' reading and planning time.
- After that you may start writing your answers when you are ready to do so. You have 40 minutes for writing.
- Answer in full sentences.
- Use your best handwriting and take care with spelling and punctuation.



Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow it.

This is the start of a story about a wooden puppet, Frozen Billy. It is told by Clarrie, sister of Will.

I *hated* Frozen Billy. I hated everything about him. I hated him even more than Will did, if that's possible. I hated his painted staring wooden eyes and the way his eyelids clicked when Uncle Len pulled the string inside his back, to make them blink. I hated his long thin legs, like dangling rods. I hated his bright
5 red wooden mouth, clacked shut or gaping open as square and wide as the opening in a pillar box.

But most of all, I suppose, I hated his chirpy, over-confident voice.

You think that sounds mad, I expect. Hate a doll's voice? A wooden doll can't speak.

10 But Uncle Len is a ventriloquist.* Oh, you never see his lips move, but that's because you're too busy staring at Billy sitting on his knee, blinking, and opening and shutting his mouth, and chatting, chatting – forever chatting.

I never minded him when I was little. I'm teased about the time I dared stamp my foot and scowl at Uncle Len. 'Make Wooden Billy speak!'

15 'Not Wooden Billy,' Uncle Len corrected me. He tapped the rusty tin label screwed along one side of the carrying box. 'See? It says here. His name is Frozen Billy.'

Will pointed to the label on the other side. 'And Still Lucy?'

20 'Yes.' Uncle Len ran a fingertip over the matching strip of tin on which STILL LUCY was painted in tiny white letters. He sighed. 'And if she'd been hanging on the same hook as Frozen Billy on the back of that Curiosity Shop door, I'd have a double act to send me straight to the Top of the Bill.'

He must have said it dozens of times over the years – usually when he was inspecting a fresh hole in his boot or counting his last few pennies. 'If I could
25 only find Still Lucy, I'd be set fair for fortune.'

Mother would scold him. 'Come, now! You know as well as I do, Len, a man makes his own fortune.'

30 We all knew she was thinking of our father. He's in Australia, on his most important job yet, surveying a road through the outback, and saving every farthing (if they have farthings in Australia) to pay for our tickets, longing for us to join him.

A brand new life! he wrote to us, the first week he was there. *You won't believe the wonders of this country. Mary, you'll be so happy. And Clarrie and Will will be in seventh heaven. Wallabies, Jacaranda trees. And heat, and sun,*
35 *and huge wide skies, and everyone – everyone – building a brave new country.*

*ventriloquist = a person who speaks in a way to make the voice seem to come from a puppet

1. Who speaks the words when Frozen Billy seems to speak? (1)
2. Using your own words, describe what Frozen Billy looks like and sounds like. (3)
3. (a) What do you think the shop is like where Uncle Len bought Frozen Billy? (1)
(b) Why do the two puppets have 'Frozen' and 'Still' added to their names? (2)
4. Where is Clarrie and Will's father, and what is his plan for the future? (2)
5. Hatred is mentioned eight times in lines 1–8. Why do you think the author starts her story with this repeated idea? (3)
6. Write as fully as you can about the character of Uncle Len. (4)
7. This passage divides into three parts:
 - (a) a description of Frozen Billy
 - (b) conversations between Clarrie, Len and Mother
 - (c) information about the father and part of his letter

Discuss each of these three different sorts of underlined writing, giving reasons why the author might be using each one. (2 + 2 + 2)
8. Would this passage make you want to read the whole book?
Explain your reasons carefully. (3)

(Total marks: 25)

The passage is from *Frozen Billy* by Anne Fine, published by Random House Children's Books.

