

Read the text below and answer Questions 1 – 4 on the question paper.

This is an extract from a novel. Nearly-blind weaver Silas finds a young child has taken refuge in his home.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

Was it a dream? He rose to his feet again, pushed his logs together, and, throwing on some dried leaves and sticks, raised a flame; but the flame did not disperse the vision-- it only lit up more distinctly the little round form of the child, and its shabby clothing. It was very much like his little sister. Silas sank into his chair powerless, under the double presence of an inexplicable surprise and a hurrying influx of memories. How and when had the child come in without his knowledge? He had never been beyond the door. But along with that question, and almost thrusting it away, there was a vision of the old home and the old streets leading to Lantern Yard--and within that vision another, of the thoughts which had been present with him in those far-off scenes. The thoughts were strange to him now, like old friendships impossible to revive; and yet he had a dreamy feeling that this child was somehow a message come to him from that far-off life: it stirred fibres that had never been moved in Raveloe*--old quiverings of tenderness--old impressions of awe at the presentiment of some Power presiding over his life; for his imagination had not yet extricated itself from the sense of mystery in the child's sudden presence, and had formed no conjectures* of ordinary natural means by which the event could have been brought about.

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But there was a cry on the hearth*: the child had awaked, and Marner stooped to lift it on his knee. It clung round his neck, and burst louder and louder into that mingling of inarticulate cries with "mammy" by which little children express the bewilderment of waking. Silas pressed it to him, and almost unconsciously uttered sounds of hushing tenderness, while he bethought himself that some of his porridge, which had got cool by the dying fire, would do to feed the child with if it were only warmed up a little.

He had plenty to do through the next hour. The porridge, sweetened with some dry brown sugar from an old store which he had refrained from using for himself, stopped the cries of the little one, and made her lift her blue eyes with a wide quiet gaze at Silas, as he put the spoon into her mouth. Presently she slipped from his knee and began to toddle about, but with a pretty stagger that made Silas jump up and follow her lest she should fall against anything that would hurt her. But she only fell in a sitting posture on the ground, and began to pull at her boots, looking up at him with a crying face as if the boots hurt her. He took her on his knee again, but it was some time before it occurred to Silas's dull bachelor mind that the wet boots were the grievance, pressing on her warm ankles. He got them off with difficulty, and the baby was at once happily occupied with the primary mystery of her own toes, inviting Silas, with much chuckling, to consider the mystery too. But the wet boots had at last suggested to Silas that the child had been walking on the snow, and this roused him from his entire oblivion of any ordinary means by which it could have entered or been brought into his house. Under the prompting of this new idea, and without waiting to form conjectures, he raised the child in his arms, and went to the door. As soon as he had opened it, there was the cry of "mammy" again, which Silas had not heard since the child's first hungry waking. Bending forward, he could just discern the marks made by the little feet on the virgin snow, and he followed their track to the furze bushes. "Mammy!" the little one cried again and again, stretching itself forward so as almost to escape from Silas's arms, before he himself was aware that there was something more than the bush before him--that there was a human body, with the head sunk low in the furze, and half-covered with the shaken snow.

*Raveloe – *Silas's former hometown*

*conjectures – *ideas*

*hearth - *fireplace*

Section A – Reading

Read the text in the Reading Text Insert provided and answer ALL questions.

You should spend about 1 hour on this section.

- 1** From lines 1 – 5, identify the phrase that explains who the child reminds Silas of.
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(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

- 2** From lines 15 - 20, give **two** ways the narrator’s behaviour shows a caring instinct towards the child.

You may use your own words or quotations from the text.

1.

2.

(Total for Question 2 = 2 marks)

- 3** In lines 21 - 28, how does the writer use language and structure to show Silas’s response to the presence of the child?

Support your views with reference to the text.

Write approximately one side of A4.

(Total for Question 3 = 6 marks)

- 4** In this extract, there is an attempt to create a sense of disbelief.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

Write approximately two sides of A4.

(Total for Question 4 = 15 marks)

Section B – Imaginative Writing

Answer ONE question. You should spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write your answer in the space provided.

EITHER

5* Write about a time when you, or someone you know, looked after someone.

Your response could be real or imagined.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

(Total for Question 5 = 40 marks)

*OR

6 Look at the images provided.

Write about a wintry experience.

Your response could be real or imagined. You may wish to base your response on one of the images.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar*

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

