

English 11+ Entrance Exam: one hour

Section A: Comprehension

Read the extract from a novel called *Ghost Hawk* by Susan Cooper and answer the questions that follow.

In this extract, the narrator (a Native American Indian boy called Little Hawk) is on his own in the American forest and hunting his first deer in order to survive in the wild, in Winter. As he goes to look for his kill, a wolf has got there first.

I began the long struggle through the snow, following the footsteps and the splashes of red. They were there every step of the way, so I knew I should find him in the end, though because he was young and strong it might take a long time. By the time I reached him, the sun was at its highest winter point in the sky and I was soaking wet from hours of pushing through the snow. I paused in relief as I saw the brown body lying under a tree.

But the big wolf had found it too. As he saw me he lifted his head and snarled, teeth shining out of his bloodied muzzle. *Mine*, said the snarl. *Mine! Keep away!*

I was so angry that it stopped me from being afraid. I yelled at him, and grabbed for my bow. It was *my* deer, and I was just as hungry as the wolf. 'Get away from there!' I yelled.

The wolf snarled again. He gave a kind of half-jump so that he was facing me, challenging, forelegs tense and apart, yellow slit eyes blazing over the dripping teeth. I was screaming at him now, dancing about like a mad thing, reaching for an arrow.

He paused; I don't think he'd ever seen anything like this before. He let out a long low growl, and then made a jerky move towards me, snarling.

So I shot at him. The arrow hit him in the leg, and the snarl became a yelp; he leapt sideways and faced me again, teeth still bared. I was still shouting at him, angry shrieks with no words, desperate now because fear was kicking in over the rage.

And for a terrible moment I thought he would leap, because it would be so easy for a wolf to kill a boy – but instead he turned away. As I went on yelling and waving my arms, he loped off over the snow, limping a little, and disappeared into the trees.

Section A: Comprehension Questions

Answer the questions below in clear, accurate English and full, complete sentences.

Look at the first paragraph in order to answer Questions 1, 2 and 3.

1. How does the reader know that the narrator is finding it hard to walk? Give **two** reasons. (2 marks)
2. How is Little Hawk able to see where the deer has gone before him? Give **two** reasons. (2 marks)
3. The author uses **two adjectives** to describe the deer. Write them down here. (2 marks)

Now look at the second, third and fourth paragraphs to answer Questions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

4. Write down **three** frightening things about the wolf. (3 marks)
5. In the second paragraph of the extract, what are the **words** that mean:
 - a) 'the projecting part of the face, including the nose and mouth, of an animal' (1 mark)
 - b) 'an aggressive growl with bared teeth' (1 mark)
6. What is the **verb** that the author uses to describe the wolf's eyes? Include a brief **quotation** to provide evidence. (2 marks)
7. What is the **simile** that the author uses to describe Little Hawk's behaviour in front of the wolf? (1 mark)
8. What does the **simile in Question 7** suggest about Little Hawk's emotions at this point in the story and how do you know this? (3 marks)

Now look at the last three paragraphs to answer Question 9.

9. How does the writer build tension **in the last three paragraphs** of the story? Use **two quotations for each character** to support your answer. (8 marks)

(Total marks for Section A: 25)

Section B: Writing

Write a response to ONE of the following **ONLY**. You should aim to write at least a side.

But, remember: what you write is more important than how much you write.

You will also be rewarded for the correct use of paragraphs and good spelling and grammar.

EITHER

1. **THE HUNT:** Write a description about a time when you (or an imaginary narrator) felt very threatened and in danger in a particular place. Use plenty of detail and descriptive writing techniques.

(You can write about something you experienced for yourself or you can make up a character and setting.)

OR

2. **LETTER:** Write a letter to a friend describing a camping trip you have taken in a forest. Use plenty of detail in your writing to set the scene in order to EITHER encourage OR discourage them to come camping with you in future!

(You may invent any details you wish or base it on a real place.)

(Total marks for Section B: 25)

(Total marks for paper: 50)