

Year 6 examination

Name:

INSTRUCTIONS

- * Read the passage in Section A and answer **all** the questions as fully as possible.
- * Then choose **one** of the writing tasks in Section B.
- * You are told the number of marks available for each question.
- * Check through your work carefully at the end of the exam.

GOOD LUCK!

Section A

Read the passage carefully and then answer the questions in full sentences. Check your writing carefully at the end for spelling and punctuation mistakes.

The writer, Roald Dahl, in his book 'Boy' describes many of his childhood experiences and the people he remembers from those years. One of them was a woman called Mrs. Pratchett.

Her name was Mrs. Pratchett. She was a small skinny old hag with a moustache on her upper lip and a mouth as sour as a green gooseberry. She never smiled. She never welcomed us when we went in and the only times she spoke were when she said things like, 'I'm watching you, so keep yer thieving fingers off them chocolates!' Or 'I don't want you in 'ere just looking around! Either you *forks* out or you *gets* out!'

But by far the most loathsome thing about Mrs. Pratchett was the filth that clung around her. Her apron was grey and greasy. Her blouse had bits of breakfast all over it, toast-crumbs and tea stains and splotches of dried egg-yolk. It was her hands, however, that disturbed us most. They were disgusting. They were black with dirt and grime. They looked as though they had been putting lumps of coal on the fire all day long. And do not please forget that it was these very hands and fingers that she plunged into sweet-jars when we asked for a pennyworth of Treacle Toffee or Wine Gums or Nut Clusters or whatever. There were precious health laws in those days, and nobody, least of all Mrs Pratchett, ever thought of using a little shovel for getting out all the sweets as they do today. The mere sight of her grimy hand with its black fingernails digging an ounce of Chocolate Fudge out of a sweet-jar would have caused a starving tramp to go running from the shop in disgust. But not us. Sweets were our life-blood. We would have put up with far worse than that to get them. So we simply stood and watched in sullen silence while this disgusting old woman stirred around inside the jars with her foul fingers.

The other thing we hated Mrs. Pratchett for was her meanness. Unless you spent a whole sixpence all in one go, she wouldn't give you a bag. Instead you got your sweets twisted up in a small piece of newspaper, which she tore off a pile of old *Daily Mirrors* lying on the counter.

So you can well understand that we had it in for Mrs. Pratchett in a big way, but we didn't know what to do about it. Many schemes were put forward but none of them was any good. None of them, that is, until suddenly, one memorable afternoon, we found a dead mouse.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Mrs Pratchett? [2]
2. Describe in your own words what she looked like. [5]
3. Which two things did the children most hate about Mrs. Pratchett? [2]
4. What was especially revolting about Mrs. Pratchett's hands? [2]
5. What kind of sweets did the children like to eat? [3]
6. What kind of bag did Mrs. Pratchett give people if they did not spend a whole sixpence? [2]
7. Write down one word from the passage which means the same as the following:
 1. Having a sharp, biting taste like lemons or vinegar.
 2. Pushed or dived into something.
 3. A spade or scoop
 4. Sulky or gloomy. [4 marks]
8. Explain what the following words mean in the passage.
They are underlined for you.
 1. hag
 2. loathsome
 3. grimy
 4. schemes
 5. memorable [5 marks]

[25 marks in total]

Now go on to Section B

Section B

Choose **ONE** of the following titles for your writing task. Remember to check your work at the end for mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

1. Write about a person you either really like or dislike
2. Write a story which ends with the words 'I wish I hadn't done this.'

[25 marks]

You have finished the exam!

Well done!

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