



Entrance Examination
11+ (Year 7)
SAMPLE
English
Paper 1: Comprehension

Your name:

Date of birth:

Today's date:

Age:

YEARS

MONTHS

Please read the following information before the examination starts.

You have 5 minutes' reading time.

After that you may start writing your answers when you are ready to do so. You have 30 minutes for writing. Write your answers on the lined paper provided.

Number of marks available: 25.

This is an extract from *Ballet Shoes*, by Noel Streatfeild. In the extract, Pauline has been invited to an audition for a stage production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Pauline left her hat in the cloakroom, and she and Nana went and stood in the hall. Nana carried her coat, for the students were always inspected before they went to an audition. There was one other child waiting, who had her mother with her. Her name was Winifred and she was very clever. She acted really well, she was a brilliant dancer, she had an unusually good singing voice, but she was not pretty. She had a clever, interesting face, and long, but rather colorless, brown hair. She was wearing an ugly brown velvet frock ; not a good choice of colour, as it made her look the same all over. When Winifred's mother saw Nana, she gave her Winifred's coat and shoe bag and hair-ribbon, and asked her to be so kind as to look after her, as she could not well spare a morning; her husband was ill, and there were five children younger than Winifred at home.

Winifred looked enviously at Pauline.

"What a lovely frock! I can hardly breathe in mine. It's so tight. I bought it last year out of the money I made in Pantomime. I've grown since."

Pauline flushed. It was not her secret how she had got the money for the dress, so she could not explain; but she did not want Winifred to think she often had things like that.

"I borrowed the money for mine," she whispered. "But don't tell the others."

Winifred nodded to show she would not.

"We're going for Alice," she said.

"In Wonderland?" asked Pauline. "How do you know?"

Winifred held out the hair-ribbon which she was holding.

"Whenever they put on Alice in Wonderland and they are auditioning girls for Alice, they tell them to bring hair-ribbons. I should think you might get it. I wish I would, though."

"It would be lovely!" Pauline's eyes shone at the thought. "Fancy meeting all the people, the Frog Footman, and the Mad Hatter, and ..."

"And think of the money!" Winifred added.

Pauline thought of the necklaces. "Would one earn much?"

Winifred looked wise. "It's the Princess Theatre; it's a mean management. Ought to get six a week, but it'll be more likely four . . . they might squeeze five."

"Five what?" asked Pauline. "Shillings?"

Winifred stared at her. "Shillings! Pounds. Don't you need money at home?"

"Of course."

Winifred pulled up her socks.

"There's needing money, and needing money," she said wisely. "If I could get this job. Mother would put half away for me, but even what's left would mean the extra stuff Dad needs to get well. He's had an operation, and doesn't seem to get right after it. Then there's clothes wanted for all of us, especially shoes. Oh, It would be wonderful if I could get it!"

She looked so anxious that Pauline almost hoped she would. Of course she needed the money too, but somehow, although there was not any for new clothes, and the food was getting plainer and plainer, nobody had ever said what a help it would be when she could earn some, and certainly she had never worried about it as poor Winifred seemed to do. All the time Winifred was talking, people who walked by called out, "Good luck, Winifred, good luck, Pauline." Pauline could see from the way they looked at her that they thought she looked nice, and from the way they looked at Winifred, that they thought she did not. She wished she had some money and could buy Winifred a new frock; she was so nice and she looked so all-wrong.

Questions on *Ballet Shoes*

[first paragraph]

1. Re-read the first paragraph. Without using any of the words in the extract, write down **five words to describe Winifred**.

[5]

[section from 'Winifred looked enviously at Pauline.' to 'Winifred nodded to show she would not.']

2. **Explain in detail how you think each girl might be feeling here.**

[5]

[section from 'We're going for Alice' to 'Of course.']

3. **The two girls have different attitudes to money. Explain what their attitudes are, and why they are different.**

[5]

[section from 'Winifred pulled up her socks.' to the end]

4. **Explain how the writer makes you feel sorry for Winifred here.**

[5]

5. **Thinking about the whole extract, what are your impressions of Pauline? Explain your ideas.**

[5]

TOTAL MARKS 25