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GUIDELINES: ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN POETRY

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P2

- This Guideline highlights the types of questions found in the Poetry section of an exam paper.
- You need to know and apply these skills to answer the questions set on your current poems.

QUESTION TYPE 1: What impression... (2 marks)	
LEVEL	This is a LEVEL 3 question. • You need to respond to the given information by making a judgement.
STEPS INVOLVED:	Step One: Analyse the identified words. Step Two: Explain the response that these identified words evoke in you.
E.g.	What is your impression of your best friend? • Your response will take the form of an EVALUATION of his / her character. • A typical response could be that he / she is a sensitive and a perceptive person. • This conclusion will be based on observable actions.
APPLICATION	
POEM	somewhere ... beyond / ee cummings.
QUESTION	What impression of the speaker is created by the use of the word "gladly" (line 1)?
SUGGESTED RESPONSE	• The speaker is enthusiastic about, and open to the new possibilities in his life. • Although it is the unknown, the anticipation fills him with excitement. • He welcomes the thought of the adventure and looks forward to the experience. • All the adjectives used to evaluate the speaker is based on the word 'gladly' • • The word 'gladly' presupposes enthusiasm, openness, excitement etc.

Please turn over

PRACTICE EXERCISES QUESTION: TYPE 1:

What impression... (2 marks)

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POEM AND QUESTION	SUGGESTED RESPONSE
<i>The Zulu Girl</i> / Roy Campbell 'Her body looms above him like a hill...' What impression is created about the mother in 'Her body looms above him'? (2)	<i>'Looms' conveys the idea of something rising above one. Here it is the mother whose body rises above the child. The impression thus created is that she is protective over her child.</i> (2)
<i>A Hard Frost</i> / CD Lewis A' frost came in the night and stole my world And left this changeling for it - a precocious Image of spring, too brilliant to be true': What impression about the place does the speaker create in the above words? (2)	<i>The words 'stole' and 'changeling' suggest a sudden and ominous disruption to an ordered world. Then 'precocious' and 'too brilliant' refer to the beauty of the change caused by the frost that fell overnight. Thus, the impression created is that the place is stunningly beautiful.</i> (2)
<i>Felix Randal</i> / GM Hopkins 'Thy tears that touched my heart, child, Felix, poor Felix Randal; What impression of the speaker is created by the above words? (2)	<i>The words 'touched' and 'my heart' convey the emotional impact that Felix Randal has on the speaker. The word "poor" Felix' shows his sympathy for Felix Randal. Thus the impression created about the speaker is that he is a soft, gentle person who cares for those who are ill and who is deeply affected by Felix Randal's impending death.</i> (2)