

# Owl Tutors 11 + Entrance Examination

## English Paper 2 A (Comprehension)

Total marks: 25

Time allowed:  
5 minutes reading, then 40 mins writing

Information for parents:

**This sample paper has been created for children who are embarking on the 11+ exam. The questions within the paper follow Level 4-5 of the National Curriculum and cover the majority of the KS2 curriculum.**

There is a big variation in the level of difficulty amongst different schools' 11+ papers and this paper is designed to reflect the standard level of entry at 11+.

# The Story of Gellert

On a cold winter's day Prince Louis gathered his huntsmen together in the courtyard of his huge castle in the depths of Dovey forest. Above them, the sky was a grey curtain. The thick walls loomed over the men and horses as they prepared themselves for the hunt. Men checked their bows strings were tight and their arrow tips as sharp as the point of a sword. The wind howled through the corridors like a wolf barking at the moon. Horses' hooves clattered over the cobblestones and hounds barked. There was a smell of dew in the air.

"Where is Gellert?" asked the prince, looking around for his favourite hunting dog.

"I have not seen him this morning," replied his bodyguard, shifting uncomfortably in his saddle, his horse was anxious to leave, snorting loudly.

Feeling annoyed because Gellert was such a good hunter, the prince decided that he could not delay departure any longer. The hunting party left the castle, clattering over the drawbridge and onto the spongy grass beyond. Wisps of morning mist snaked through the trees like lost souls and the bare branches creaked in the wind. The horses' hooves drummed on the winter earth. The prince was leading his men, dressed for war, in a suit of silver scales as shiny as fish.

The huntsmen did not see a boar or a deer that day; they did not catch anything. When it got darker on that disappointing day, the prince and his men headed back to the castle. Riders, archers, horses and hounds were exhausted. They were empty-handed but relieved to be back where the fires would warm their frozen bones and some gruel would help soothe the hunger that gnawed at their stomachs.

While they were taking their mounts to the stable, Gellert slunk out to meet him. The prince's favourite hound looked sad, his tail was pointing down and his ears were drooping, he cowered along the cobblestones, his belly brushing the ground. Then, the prince noticed that there was blood around his mouth.

Suddenly, he remembered his young son who had been sleeping in his room.

The prince ran like the wind. He charged up the stairs to find the nursery was a complete mess, the cot had been overturned, the curtains had been torn, and a chair had crashed to the floor.

"You killed my son!" shouted the prince in a terrible rage, turning his anger on the dog that had followed him up the stairs.

Without thinking, he drew his sword and with one swift movement, he stabbed Gellert in the heart. That was when he heard a gurgling sound from behind one of the ripped

curtains. Running over, the prince pulled back the drape to discover his young son who was playing happily with some wooden building blocks. Next to his son was the cold, stiff body of a wolf.

The prince realised what had really happened. The wolf had come in looking for food and, Gellert, the faithful hound, had killed the wolf and saved his son.

If only he had heeded the king's advice: "Look before you leap."

Questions and answer follow.

By Michael Fitzalan

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## Questions:

- 1) Where is the castle? (2 marks)
- 2) Why was the prince angry? (2 marks)
- 3) In your own words, describe the weather (3 marks)
- 4) What noises are referred to in the text or list the uses of onomatopoeia in this passage? (3 marks)
- 5) What techniques are used in the short paragraph: 'Suddenly, he remembered his young son who had been sleeping in his room'? (4 marks)
- 6) Pick out a simile and say why it makes the writing more vivid (2 marks)
- 7) How is Gellert's distress described? (3 marks)
- 8) When did the prince realise his son was safe? (2 marks)
- 9) What type of story is this? (1 mark)
- 10) The prince was advised to 'Look before you leap'. Write some advice of your own, which it would be sensible to adhere to (1 mark)
- 11) How does the passage make you feel? Please, explain your feelings (2 marks)

## Answers

- 1) The castle is in Dovey Forest (settling question). (Only one mark for 'it' – specific details for two marks).
- 2) The prince was angry because he had to go hunting without his favourite hunting dog, Gellert.
- 3) The weather is overcast, damp and windy.
- 4) The examples of onomatopoeia are: clattering, howling and barking. There are many more including gurgling.
- 5) The writer puts this paragraph on its own to emphasise the words; accept to make them stand out. The writer is foreshadowing; the writer is warning the reader that something dreadful might happen.
- 6) 'Wisps of morning mist snaked through the trees like lost souls' gives the story an eerie, ghostly or spooky atmosphere.
- 7) Any reference to: sad, tail pointing down, ears drooping, he cowering or belly brushing the ground.
- 8) The prince heard the baby gurgling and that was when he realised his son was safe.
- 9) This story is a folk tale, a fable, a story with a moral.
- 10) Any sensible suggestion.
- 11) An answer that shows reflection or understanding or the story.