



8 Plus

Paper [9]

English

Total marks: [30]

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Instructions

- You have 45 minutes
- Dictionaries are not allowed
- There are 30 marks available.
- Use either pen or pencil and write your answers on lined paper
- You should write in full sentences.

Full name _____

This is an extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (published 1865). Alice has met an unusual egg called Humpty Dumpty. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

However, the egg only got larger and larger, and more and more human: when she had come within a few yards of it, she saw that it had eyes and a nose and mouth; and when she had come close to it, she saw clearly that it was HUMPTY DUMPTY himself. "It can't be anybody else!" she said to herself. "I'm as certain of it, as if his name were written all over his face."

It might have been written a hundred times, easily, on that enormous face. Humpty Dumpty was sitting with his legs crossed, like a Turk, on the top of a high wall—such a narrow one that Alice quite wondered how he could keep his balance—and, as his eyes were steadily fixed in the opposite direction, and he didn't take the least notice of her, she thought he must be a stuffed figure after all.

"And how exactly like an egg he is!" she said aloud, standing with her hands ready to catch him, for she was every moment expecting him to fall.

"It's very provoking," Humpty Dumpty said after a long silence, looking away from Alice as he spoke, "to be called an egg—*Very!*"

"I said you *looked* like an egg, Sir," Alice gently explained. "And some eggs are very pretty, you know" she added, hoping to turn her remark into a sort of a compliment.

"Some people," said Humpty Dumpty, looking away from her as usual, "have no more sense than a baby!"

Alice didn't know what to say to this: it wasn't at all like conversation, she thought, as he never said anything to *her*; in fact, his last remark was evidently addressed to a tree—so she stood and softly repeated to herself:—

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall:
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's horses and all the King's men
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty in his place again."

"That last line is much too long for the poetry," she added, almost out loud, forgetting that Humpty Dumpty would hear her.

"Don't stand there chattering to yourself like that," Humpty Dumpty said, looking at her for the first time, "but tell me your name and your business."

"My *name* is Alice, but—"

"It's a stupid enough name!" Humpty Dumpty interrupted impatiently. "What does it mean?"

"*Must* a name mean something?" Alice asked doubtfully.

"Of course it must," Humpty Dumpty said with a short laugh: "*my* name means the shape I am—and a good handsome shape it is, too. With a name like yours, you might be any shape, almost."

Questions

1. What do we learn about the character of Alice in this passage? You should find three different things to write about. Use your own words. (5 marks)

2. What do we learn about the character of Humpty Dumpty in this passage? You should find three different things to write about. Use quotations from the passage to back up your ideas. (5 marks)

3. What do you think will happen next? You should try to continue the story for at least two paragraphs. (10 marks)

4. Write a description of an unusual person or animal. You should try to write about:

- What they look like
- What their personality is like
- The unusual things they do

Try to write two paragraphs. (10 marks)



