



Read the following extract from *'Ned's Circus of Marvels,'* a novel by Justin Fisher. In the extract a nun, Sister Clementine, is being chased through an abandoned power station. Two men are chasing her for information that she does not want to give.

You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the passage.

- 1 The building work at Battersea Power station had been abandoned without warning. 'SITE UNDER
2 NEW MANAGEMENT' billboards had been hurriedly put up years ago. The army of cranes, bulldozers
3 and diggers lay silenced, their only visitors an occasional seagull and deepening layers of rust. It was
4 late and London was asleep. As always, the River Thames flowed quietly by, disturbed only by
5 somebody brave enough to be dropped off in a taxi nearby.
- 6 Deep inside the old power station, the air began to move. Behind a crumbling wall, water pipes
7 trembled. Broken tiles lay crumpled on the floor. Rats scurried from shadow to shadow, the only
8 survivors of what had been before. If anything else could have lived here, which it couldn't, it would
9 have run. In the dark London night, only the four vast chimneys could see how these shadows
10 twisted and turned, before revealing a mud-splattered, silver-haired nun.
- 11 Sister Clementine was tired, tired of running, tired of always being afraid. Ever since she'd agreed to
12 carry the message, they'd had her scent. No matter how well she'd hidden, no matter what tricks
13 she'd used, they'd always found her. Her chest was tight and her legs ached from the chase. Her
14 heart pounded like a jackhammer, desperately seeking release from her ribcage. Beads of sweat
15 formed on her brow like condensation on a hot summer's day. She had to think fast; any minute now
16 they'd be on her. She couldn't outrun them, especially not the little one. By the time she'd made it
17 to the fence, they'd have her, and if they had her, there was no hope of keeping quiet. No one ever
18 kept quiet.
- 19 Looking out towards the river, she saw a sliver of hope. If she could make the crane in time, she
20 might get high enough to go unnoticed. She climbed the ladder quickly and quietly, her robes perfect
21 cover under the pitch-black sky. She was absorbed into the darkness of sleepy London.
- 22 But Sister Clementine did not go unnoticed. Finally, at the crane's arm she slowed enough to hear
23 them. The same two men that had tricked her since the beginning, one short and barrel-chested, the
24 other impossibly tall. They were studying their new surroundings carefully. The shorter man sniffed
25 at the air's unique aroma like a foxhound, while the tall man's pin-sharp eyes scanned the horizon.
26 The experienced arm which held his gun aloft was steady, it mirrored the slow, repetitive thudding
27 of his heart. Their kind might usually have been nervous, afraid even of being on private land. But
28 not these men. It was not their job to fear, but to be feared. They were the things that went *bump* in
29 the night.
- 30 In no time they had zeroed in on their target. They moved fast, the tall one climbing with all the skill
31 of a spider while the other charged with the excitable brute strength of a predator nearing its prey.
- 32 Sister Clementine moved further down the crane arm as her assailants reached the top.
- 33 "Gimme the co-ordinates, Clementine. Just two sets o' numbers and you go free," said the tall man,
34 in a thick dark American accent.

35 Clementine's foot slipped, finding only air instead of metal. There was nowhere else to run. The tall
36 American pulled a revolver from his hip, aiming it squarely at the woman's head.

37 "Don't kill her, just wound her; she's worth nothing if she can't talk," snarled the barrel, edging
38 down the crane's arm towards her.

39 The nun looked down at the void of black, before closing her eyes for one last prayer.

40 "He wants the child, Clementine," said the American.

41 But the nun's mind was already made up. Sister Clementine opened her eyes and smiled.

42 "Go to hell."

43 She stretched out her arms like wings and pushed hard on the crane beneath her, launching herself
44 into the air. She made no sound as she fell into the darkness of the night. There was no hard crunch
45 of concrete below, only a splash as she landed in the icy River Thames. The tall American waited,
46 peering into the darkness, before firing a single perfect round.

- 1) Look closely at lines 1-10. List four things that you would find in the abandoned Battersea Power Station (4 marks).
- 2) Look again at lines 1-10. How does the writer help to create a sinister atmosphere through their description of the abandoned power station? Try to give at least two examples (4 marks).
- 3) Look closely at lines 11-18. How does the writer help to show how frightened Sister Clementine is? Try to give at least three examples from the text to support your ideas and explain them. (6 marks).
- 4) Look closely at lines 22-31 in which the men hunting Sister Clementine are described. How does the writer present them as terrifying and something Sister Clementine should fear? Try to give three examples from the text to support your ideas and explain them (6 marks).
- 5) Now, look at the final section of the extract from lines 41-46. How do you think Sister Clementine feels as she jumps into the river? Try to give at least two examples from the text to explain your ideas. (5 marks)

Writing

You have a choice of two questions – answer just one:

EITHER:

Write the next chapter to this story. (25 marks)

You may wish to write about:

- What happens to Sister Clementine
- What the men chasing her decided to do next

OR:

Write about a time when you felt particularly frightened. (25 marks)



Read the following extract from the opening chapter of 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones,' a novel by Phil Hicke. The main character, Aveline, is driving to her Auntie's house with her mother.

You are advised to spend at least 5 minutes reading the passage.

- 1 Aveline Jones was thirteen and full of teenage hormones. She sat in her mum's car and heaved a sigh
2 that said more about her sad mood than words ever could. While a few days off school would
3 normally have been cause for a major celebration, her plans for doing not-a-lot had been ruined.
4 And now fate was taking her to a different place altogether. Malmouth. Home to her Aunt Lilian.
- 5 Aveline stared gloomily out of the car window as the countryside passed by in a bleak blur, the
6 pelting rain mimicking her feelings inside. Whilst she'd only met Aunt Lilian a handful of times, she
7 remained something of a puzzle. Nice but cold, like ice cream. Aveline hadn't spent much time with
8 her aunt before now, mainly because she lived too far away. But on the few occasions she'd met her,
9 Aveline had always felt a little intimidated. Sometimes she felt she'd be more suited to being a
10 prison guard than a teacher. The thought gave her chills.
- 11 The journey down from Bristol had been long and miserable. Aveline had tried listening to her music
12 for a while but had given up. The countryside outside appeared to have given up, too. The wind
13 outside was fierce. Like a toddler throwing a tantrum, it flung anything aside that entered its path.
14 With most of their leaves being blown away, the trees resembled plucked and starved chickens, their
15 trunks black and shiny with slime. The skinny hedgerows looked similarly hungry and ill, all the
16 colour having been sucked out of them by the vampire weather. The only living things to be seen
17 were the crows that sat hunched in the branches, hurling their angry curses across the empty
18 countryside.
- 19 Aveline turned to squint between the manic windscreen wipers.
- 20 "Is that Malmouth?"
- 21 "Certainly is. Won't take long now."
- 22 Snakes wriggled in Aveline's stomach as she looked out at the town. Despite it only being late
23 afternoon, the sky looked ominously dark, as though even the stars were afraid to appear. The
24 streets were practically deserted and the town's icy and unwelcoming atmosphere crept into the car
25 like fog, invading every empty space. An old man walking his dog stopped to glare at them as they
26 passed, an annoyed scowl on his leathery and weather-worn face. His expression seemed to be a
27 warning.
- 28 To their left, waves crashed down onto the pebbled beach in angry explosions of foam. A little
29 further on, the concrete harbour wall curved out into the sea like a giant stone tentacle, anchoring
30 tiny fishing boats as they bobbed around in the sheltered bay.
- 31 Up ahead, outside the cottage at the end of a row, somebody watched them approach. It appeared
32 to be a boy. He leaned against the garden wall at an awkward angle, as if he'd fallen against it but

33 was unable to pull himself back up. He was odd-looking – his skin appeared too pale, his hair too dry
34 and frizzy, a combination that suggested he might be suffering from some dreadful sickness.

35 “Is he okay, do you think?” Aveline’s mum said.

36 Aveline didn’t reply. She sensed something wasn’t quite right, the back of her neck growing cold. It
37 was a feeling she got sometimes, when she walked past abandoned houses with boarded-up
38 windows or lay in bed at night reading something spooky. It told her that all was not well. That
39 perhaps, somewhere in the shadows, something lurked. Despite her telling herself that she was
40 fierce and brave, that she didn’t need to be afraid, old fears and experiences often crept into her
41 mind. Fears that were very difficult for her to shake off.

42 As they drew closer, the boy still hadn’t moved. Their car slowed. Like a pair of inquisitive owls, the
43 two of them turned their heads to peer at the strangely rigid figure.

44 Dead eyes stared back at them.

Spend 10 minutes answering questions 1 and 2

1. Look again at lines 5-10. List three things that you learn about Aveline (3 marks).
2. Look closely at lines 11-18. How does the writer show how threatening the weather outside is in the examples below?
 - a) The wind outside was fierce. Like a toddler throwing a tantrum, it flung anything aside that entered its path. With most of their leaves being blown away, the trees resembled plucked and starved chickens, their trunks black and shiny with slime.
 - b) The skinny hedgerows looked similarly hungry and ill, all the colour having been sucked out of them by the vampire weather.

Spend 10 minutes answering question 3

3. Look closely at lines 22-30. How does the writer make the description of the town seem unwelcoming in this part of the extract? Try to give three examples from the text to support your ideas, and explain your answer. (8 marks).

Spend 10 minutes answering question 4

4. Look at the whole text. What are your impressions of Aveline? In your answer, you should:
 - Consider what the narrator tells us about Aveline’s personality.
 - Consider Aveline’s thoughts, feelings and actions throughout the extract.
 - Support your response with references to the text. [10 marks]

Writing

Spend 5 minutes planning your answer and 20 minutes writing it.

You have a choice of two questions – answer just one:

EITHER:

Write the next chapter to this story. (25 marks)

OR:

Write about a time when you visited a strange, unwelcoming place (25 marks)



Read the following extract from *'The Prince of Mist'*, a novel by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. In this extract, Maximilian Carver is moving house with his wife and three children: Max, Alicia and Irina.

You are advised to spend 5 minutes reading the passage.

- 1 In time, the memories of that first day would come back to Max as a peculiar collection of random
- 2 images. To begin with, as soon as the vans stopped outside the house and Robin and Philip had
- 3 started to unload the luggage, Mr Carver managed to trip over an old bucket, propelling himself at
- 4 dizzying speed onto the white fence and knocking down at least four metres of it.

- 5 'Are you all right, dear?' asked his wife.

- 6 'Never better,' he replied, his right foot still trapped in the bucket. 'It's a sign of good luck.'

- 7 'I knew he was going to say that,' muttered Alicia.

- 8 Mrs Carver shot her a warning look.

- 9 The two porters carried the luggage as far as the front porch and, apparently considering their
- 10 mission accomplished, vanished in an instant, leaving the family to do the honours of dragging the
- 11 trunks up the stairs.

- 12 'Another good omen,' Alicia commented dryly.

- 13 When Maximilian Carver solemnly opened the front door, a musty smell wafted out through the
- 14 opening like a ghost that had been trapped between the walls for many years. Inside, a thin haze of
- 15 dust hovered in the faint light that filtered through the blinds in slanting razors of gold.

- 16 'My God,' Max's mother muttered to herself, as she estimated the tons of dust that would have to
- 17 be removed.

- 18 'Isn't it marvellous?' Maximilian Carver said hurriedly. 'I told you so.'

- 19 Max exchanged a look with his sister Alicia, while Irina gazed open-mouthed at the interior of the
- 20 house. Before anyone could utter another word, Irina's cat jumped out of her arms and charged
- 21 inside with a loud meow.

- 22 'At least somebody likes it,' Max heard Alicia grumble.

- 23 A second later, following the cat's example, Maximilian Carver stepped into the family's new home.

- 24 The first thing Mrs Carver instructed them to do was open all the doors and windows to air the
- 25 house. When that had been done, the whole family spent a few hours making their new home
- 26 habitable. With the precision of a specialised task force, each member attacked a specific job. Alicia
- 27 was in charge of bedrooms and beds. Irina, duster in hand, knocked down castles of dust, and Max,
- 28 following her trail, was in charge of sweeping them up. Their mother busied herself distributing the
- 29 suitcases and made a mental note of all the jobs that would have to be done. Mr Carver devoted all
- 30 his efforts to ensuring that water pipes, electricity and other mechanical devices were back in
- 31 working order after years of neglect – which did not turn out to be an easy undertaking.

Spend 10 minutes answering questions 1 and 2

- 1) Read lines 1-11. List three things that go wrong when the family arrive at the house. [3]
- 2) Look at examples a and b from the source. How does the writer use language in each example to create setting? [4]
 - a) 'a musty smell wafted out through the opening like a ghost that had been trapped between the walls for many years.'
 - b) 'Inside, a thin haze of dust hovered in the faint light that filtered through the blinds in slanting razors of gold.'

Spend 10 minutes answering question 3

- 3) Look at the whole extract. How does the writer present the character of Maximilian Carver? Try to give at least 3 examples from the text and explain them. [8]

Spend 10 minutes answering question 4

- 4) Look again at the whole extract.
In your opinion, do you think that this house move will prove to be successful?
In your response you could:
 - Consider your impressions of the relationships between the family members.
 - Consider how the characters react to the new house.
 - Support your response with references to the text. [10]

Writing

Spend 5 minutes planning your answer and 20 minutes writing it.

Either

1) Write about your first impressions of a house that you have visited. (This could be your own house, or that of a friend or family member.) [25]

OR

2) Write the next chapter of *The Prince of Mist*. [25]