



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 02 November 2020 – Morning

GCSE (9–1) English Language

J351/01 Communicating information and ideas Insert

Time allowed: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS

- Do **not** send this Reading Insert for marking. Keep it in the centre or recycle it.

INFORMATION

- Use this Insert to answer the questions in Section A.
- This document has **8** pages.

Details of text extracts:

Text 1

Text: adapted from *Autobiography*

Author: Harriet Martineau (1877)

Text 2

Text: adapted from *A Roof of One's Own*

Author: Jeanette Winterson (2010)

Text 1

Harriet Martineau was a successful writer when she was an adult but had a difficult childhood because of constant illness and strict parents. In her autobiography she describes how she became a writer.

When I was young, my parents did not think it proper for young ladies to study very conspicuously, and especially not with pen in hand. Young ladies were expected to sit down in the parlour to sew – during which reading aloud was permitted – or to practise their music, so that they would be fit to receive callers.

5 Thus, my first studies were carried on with great care and reserve. I was in the parlour regularly after breakfast, before dinner in winter, and after tea in summer; and, if ever I shut myself into my room for an hour of solitude, I knew it was at the risk of being sent for to join the sewing circle, or to practise my music. But I won time for what my heart was set on, nevertheless, either in the early morning or late at night.

10 I had a strange passion for translating in those days; our cousin used to read Italian with Rachel and me; we made some progress through the usual authors and, out of this, grew a fit to translate them into English. I believe we really succeeded pretty well and I am sure that all these exercises were a singularly apt preparation for my after work.

15 At this time I had my first appearance in print. My brother James desired me to write something that was in my head and try my chance with it in the 'Monthly Repository', the poor little periodical¹ I have mentioned before. What James desired I always did and, soon after six o'clock one bright September morning, I was at my desk.

20 I wrote away in my abominable scrawl of those days, feeling mightily like a fool all the time. I told no one and carried my paper in an expensive packet to the post-office myself. I took the letter V for my signature – I cannot remember why. I had no definite expectation that I should ever hear anything of my paper and certainly did not expect it could be published in the forthcoming magazine.

25 That magazine was sent in on a Sunday morning. My heart may have been beating when I laid hands on it, but it thumped prodigiously when I saw my article and a request to hear more from V of Norwich. There is certainly something entirely peculiar in the sensation of seeing oneself in print for the first time – the lines burn themselves in on the brain in a way of which black ink is incapable in any other mode.

30 When James had read my paper, he laid his hand on my shoulder and said gravely, 'Now, dear, leave it to other women to make shirts and darn stockings and you devote yourselves to this.' I went home in a sort of dream, so that the squares of the pavement seemed to float before my eyes. That evening made me a writer.

¹*periodical* = monthly magazine

Text 2

Jeanette Winterson was another successful writer who had a difficult childhood. Her mother restricted the books she could read. Here she describes what happened when she found some old roofing slates which she turned into her own books.

J Winterson, 'A Roof of One's Own', pp4-7, Long Barn Books, 2010. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

²*tacking* = changing direction (sailing metaphor)

³*harbouring* = hiding and keeping



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