



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 04 November 2020 – Morning

GCSE (9–1) English Language

J351/02 Exploring effects and impact

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 *Cat's Eye*

Author: Margaret Atwood (1988)

Text 2

Text: adapted from *Empire of the Sun*

Author: JG Ballard (1984)

Text 1

This is an abridged extract from the novel 'Cat's Eye' by Margaret Atwood (published in 1988). The novel is set during the Second World War. Elaine and her family are travelling, renting rooms or camping as they go. In this passage, Elaine describes playing with her brother, Stephen.

Adapted from M Atwood, 'Cat's Eye', pp27-32, Anchor Books, 1988. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Text 2

This is an extract from the novel 'Empire of the Sun' by JG Ballard (published in 1984). The novel is set during World War Two. Jim, a rich young boy, is living with his parents in Shanghai, which has been captured by Japanese soldiers. In the extract, he is playing with a model plane on an old airfield and remembers the time when they first arrived.

Giving way to his excitement, he picked up his model glider and launched it into the air.

Caught by the wind, the model banked steeply and soared across the perimeter of the airfield. It skidded along the roof of an old concrete blockhouse and fell into the grass beyond. Impressed by the model's speed, Jim ran towards the blockhouse, arms outstretched as he machine-gunned the flitting insects.

5 'Ta-ta-ta-ta-ta ... Vera-Vera-Vera ...!'

Beyond the overgrown perimeter ditch of the airfield was an old battleground. Here the Chinese armies had made one of their many futile stands in the attempt to halt the Japanese advance on Shanghai. Ruined trenches formed zigzag lines, a collapsed earth palisade linked 10 a group of burial mounds built on the causeway of a disused canal. Jim could remember visiting with his parents a few days after the battle. Parties of Europeans and Americans drove from Shanghai, and parked their limousines on country roads covered with cartridge cases. The ladies in silk dresses and their husbands in grey suits strolled through the debris of a war arranged for them by a passing demolition squad.

15 To Jim the battlefield seemed more like a dangerous rubbish tip – ammunition boxes and stick grenades were scattered at the roadside, there were discarded rifles stacked like matchwood and artillery pieces still hitched to the carcasses of horses. The belt ammunition of machine-guns lying in the grass resembled the skins of venomous snakes. All around them were the bodies of dead Chinese soldiers. They lined the verges of the roads and floated in the canals, 20 jammed together around the pillars of the bridges. In the trenches between the burial mounds hundreds of dead soldiers sat side by side with their heads against the torn earth, as if they had fallen asleep together in a deep dream of war.

25 Jim reached the blockhouse, a concrete fort whose gun slits let a faint light into their damp world. He climbed on to the roof and walked across the open deck, searching the nettle banks for his aircraft. The plane lay fifty feet away, caught in the rusting barbed wire of an old trenchwork. The paper was torn from its wings, but the frame was still intact.

30 He was about to jump from the blockhouse, when he noticed that a face was looking up at him from the trench. A fully armed Japanese soldier squatted by the broken earth wall, his rifle, webbing and ground sheet laid out beside him as if ready for inspection. No more than eighteen years old, with a moon-like face, he stared at Jim, unsurprised by this small European boy in his blue velvet trousers and silk shirt.



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