



Annual Examinations for Middle Schools 2022

YEAR 8

ENGLISH
SOURCE BOOKLET

In this booklet, you will find the texts which you need to read to be able to answer the reading comprehension and literature questions in the Main Paper.

SOURCE A

DO YOU WANT TO WATCH OUT FOR THE LOCH NESS MONSTER?

HERE'S ALL YOU NEED!



- a tent to sleep in
- a pair of binoculars to watch closely
- a flashlight and spare batteries
- a camera to capture anything interesting
- a pen and a notebook
- a thick blanket
- warm, waterproof clothes and shoes
- food and warm drinks
- basic toiletries



ANY INFO!

TALK TO US
(04) 298 3985 2092
info@lochnesswatchout.com

SOURCE B

You are going to read about the Loch Ness Monster and other creatures. Real Monsters?

A question that is often asked is: Do monsters exist? Some people think that there is quite a lot of proof for these creatures: eyewitnesses, photographs which are not so clear and mysterious footprints. For cryptozoologists that evidence is enough to **confirm** a monster's existence.

- 5 But first of all, what is a cryptozoologist and what is a cryptid?
Cryptozoologists are the people who search for **legendary** animals. These people search for mythical creatures called cryptids. Thousands of cultures all over the world report animals that have never been described by science. The description is usually something very unusual, like Scotland's Loch Ness monster. There are other lake creatures supposedly seen all over the world:
10 in the United States, Canada, Japan and Iceland. People also talk of blood-sucking creatures that attack cows and other animals in South America while "jungle walruses" have been said to exist in lakes and rivers in central Africa. These reports suggest creatures that are known through folklore or just
15 through a **suspicion** that they exist.

- Science has a lot to tell us about these creatures. The first thing, of course, is that there cannot be a single animal. If there is one of them, there has got to be many of them. You can talk about their population or the size of area they should have, based on their body size. All this points to the non-
20 existence of these creatures because if they were real, they would have huge areas to move in. This would have made it easy for them to be **spotted** a long time ago.

- The Loch Ness Monster is probably the most famous creature which interests people who study these monsters. Nessie, as the Loch Ness Monster is **fondly**
25 known, is said to live in Loch Ness which is a very large, deep lake in Scotland. The first sighting of Nessie was reported back in the sixth century. On August 22, 564, some historians say Columba, a Christian leader, reported seeing the animal that would become known as the Loch Ness Monster in Loch Ness, Scotland. Columba was an Irish priest who later became a saint. He was
30 visiting Scotland, and it is said that St Columba asked the monster not to attack one of his followers who fell off the boat and Nessie supposedly swam away. Then, in 1933, Nessie was apparently seen again by George Spicer and his wife – Nessie crossed the road in front of their car. The next year, a photo was taken of Nessie, which became very famous. It was taken by a doctor
35 called Robert Kenneth Wilson – but the photo turned out to be fake. Since then, some other people have reported seeing Nessie.

- More people have tried to take photos and videos, but Nessie seems to be quite shy and the pictures are not so clear. People have also tried exploring the lake, but it is very deep and dark. Some people watched the lake, while
40 other people used equipment like underwater cameras, microphones and sonar to scan the lake carefully. People have explored the lake in submarines. Now, people are even using test tubes to collect water from the lake to test it for DNA. Despite all these efforts, nobody has found anything. There are lots of possible explanations for what people have seen in Loch
45 Ness. A few people think it could be a plesiosaur, which is a type of dinosaur.

But maybe the monster is just a giant eel, a large bird, a large branch of a tree or a very large seal. So, what do you think? Do you believe that Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, really exists? One thing is for sure. Nessie means business for the towns surrounding Loch Ness. According to the BBC, nearby businesses sell and provide services for nearly €37 million every year. How's that for a real monster?

Adapted from *The National Geographic* and *The British Council* sites



SOURCE C

From **Sick** by Shel Silverstein

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.
5 My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox
And there's one more--that's seventeen,
10 And don't you think my face looks green?
My nose is cold, my toes are numb.
I have a sliver in my thumb.
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,
I hardly whisper when I speak.
15 There is a hole inside my ear.
I have a hangnail, and my heart is--what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is. . .Saturday?
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"



Adapted from: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/sick-by-shel-silverstein>

SOURCE D

Issy Randall refolded the piece of paper and smiled.

'Are you absolutely sure about this?' she said to the figure in the armchair. 'This is the recipe?' The old man nodded. He held up one finger, which Issy recognised immediately as the sign that he was about to lecture her.

5 'Well, the thing is,' Grandpa Joe began, 'baking is ...'

'Life,' filled in Issy patiently, though she knew this story. Her grandfather started sweeping up in the family bakery at the age of twelve; eventually he took over the business and ran three large bakeries in Manchester. Baking was all he knew.

10 'It is life. Bread is the staff of life, our most basic food.'

'And not very balanced diet,' said Issy, smoothing her cord skirt down over her hips and sighing. It was one thing for her grandfather to say that. His whole life he was always skinny as a rake, thanks to a full-time diet of extremely hard physical work that started with lighting the furnace at 5am.

15 It was quite another thing when baking was your hobby, your passion – but you had to sit all day at a desk. Issy ran her hands through her cloudy black hair, full of beautiful curls.

'So when you describe what you're making, you must describe life. Do you see? It's not just recipes ... next thing you'll tell me you're measuring in metric.'

20 Issy bit her lip and made a mental note to hide her metric scales the next time Grandpa visited her. He'd only get himself worked up.

'Are you listening to me?'

'Yes, Gramps!'

25 They both turned to look out of the window of the assisted living facility in north London. Issy had installed Joe there when it became clear he was getting too absent-minded to live on his own. Joe had grumbled of course but he was going to grumble anyway, moving out of his home to anywhere that wouldn't let him rise at 5am and start pounding bread dough. The three
30 bakeries, with their proud, shiny brass handles and old signs were gone now; fallen prey to the supermarkets and chains that favoured cheap white bread over hand-crafted but slightly more expensive loaves.

Adapted from *Meet me at the cupcake café* by Jenny Colgan.



END OF SOURCE BOOKLET