



Annual Examinations for Middle Schools 2025

YEAR 7

ENGLISH SOURCE BOOKLET

Name: _____

Class: _____

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 A1

Source A1								
 Listings Listings Search  Streaming     Local TV Guide NEW USERS - SET UP MY GUIDE EXISTING USERS - LOG IN 10199 Broadcast TV New York OTA Broadcast Afternoon Today << NOW NEXT >>								
Channels	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30
1	Toon Laughs Start your afternoon with a mix of humorous cartoons. NEW	Learning with Lily Join Lily and her friends as they explore basic maths, science, and reading skills through interactive games and songs.		Adventure Club Follow a group of young explorers as they embark on detective missions, solving riddles and uncovering mysteries.		KNews LIVE Let's see what our young reporters tell us about today's events.	Family Movie Night - Little Hero Tonight's feature is about a young hero's quest to save his village from an ancient curse.	
2	Wildlife Wonders Today's episode focusses on the Amazon rainforest and its distinct wildlife.	A An exploration of the planet's most extreme weather events, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.		B Tune in to see the latest news about the natural world and climate change.	C Dive into the deep blue to uncover the secrets of marine life. Discover the lives of diverse underwater creatures.	Evening Expedition LIVE Travel to remote locations around the world to study rare and endangered species. Tonight's episode takes us to the mountains of Nepal to observe endangered species.		
3	Adrenaline Rush A showcase of extreme action, including skateboarding, base jumping, and snowboarding. NEW		Football Update Get up to date with this week's football league results.		Basketball Tonight Highlights and discussions about recent basketball games, featuring interviews with players and coaches.		Snooker on the Box The English Open is up and running, with snooker players going head-to-head. Streaming with commentary from Brentwood, England.	

THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING

4.5



PG, 2 hours, Fantasy & Adventure

The Kid Who Would Be King, directed by Joe Cornish, is a first-rate film that brings the legend of King Arthur to modern times. Released in 2019, this fantasy adventure film is perfect for children and families who love stories about knights, and heroic missions.

A.



- 5 The story is about a boy called Alex Elliot, perfectly portrayed by Louis Ashbourne Serkis, who finds the legendary sword Excalibur at a construction site. Alexander Elliot is a twelve-year-old boy who is starting a new term at school while struggling to get used to his new surroundings. When his best friend Bedders is bullied by two older students, Alex
- 10 comes to his aid but ends up in trouble with the head teacher. That night, the two bullies chase Alex as he is on his way home but Alex hides in a nearby construction site, where he finds a mysterious sword and removes it from the stone it is stuck in. Taking the sword with him, Alex shows it to Bedders, an
- 15 awkward, timid boy, and they discover that its markings identify it as Excalibur, the sword of King Arthur. As the film develops, Alex soon brings his friends and enemies together, and they become knights. Merlin, a wizard and King Arthur's ally, is also there to help them. He has aged backwards, appearing as a teenager. They need to join forces so as to
- 20 use the power of Excalibur to stop the evil character, Morgana, who wants to take over the world. The film is set in present-day Britain. This, I believe, is what makes the ancient tale of King Arthur feel fresh, exciting and stand out.



B.

- 25 The film highlights the importance of friendship, bravery, and believing in yourself. It shows that anyone can be a hero, no matter where they come from. In fact, Alex's journey to becoming a hero shows that even regular children can do extraordinary things. Alex approaches his responsibilities with courage and determination. The film also explores ways of dealing with bullies as well as the importance of understanding
- 30 each other and working together. This is shown through the characters' journey from rivals to friends.

Characters and Performances

Louis Ashbourne Serkis does a great job as Alex. The talented, young actor shows how a young boy can become a brave leader. The other characters are also remarkable. Tom Taylor and Rhianna Dorris star as Lance and Kaye respectively, the school bullies who join Alex's quest and become his friends. They give an impressive performance as egoistic bullies who change into heroes. Through this transformation, we see how people can change for the better if given a chance. Angus Imrie stars as the teenage Merlin and his performance is amusing, surely making the audience smile.

Lastly, I need to praise Rebecca Ferguson who plays the most challenging role, that of Morgana. As the great villain of the story, she's frightening and powerful, but also mysterious because she has many hidden secrets. Watch out kids! She might keep you from sleeping at night.

Direction and Writing

The combination of brilliant writing and flawless directing by none other than Joe Cornish results in a compelling narrative. He mixes action, humour, and emotions perfectly, making sure the film is not tedious. The script is full of clever lines and brilliantly crafted references to King Arthur's legend, all of which were surprisingly easy to understand. The movie's pace is just right, packed with action scenes that keep you on the edge of your seat. There are also lots of amusing and emotional moments that make the characters feel real and relatable. Its downside, however, is that the ending is very predictable, especially for adults. Moreover, I think the film is also more protracted than it needs to be and can be a bit dragging to an impatient young audience.

C.

The special effects in 'The Kid Who Would Be King' are impressive. The magic, especially Excalibur and Morgana's transformations, is mind-blowing. The final battle during a solar eclipse is one of the most memorable parts of the film, with amazing visuals that make it feel like a real adventure.

D.

'The Kid Who Would Be King' is a fantastic film that brings the story of King Arthur to life in a way that's fun and exciting for modern audiences. With its spellbinding plot, plausible characters and powerful messages, it's a must-see for anyone who loves magical adventures. Joe Cornish has created a movie that stands out in the family adventure genre, making it perfect for a fun movie night with friends and family.

USER REVIEWS

USER SCORE

Generally Favorable

Based on 73 User Ratings

6.1

47% Positive
34 Ratings

41% Mixed
30 Ratings

12% Negative
9 Ratings

Source B

On that first morning, Sara sat at Miss Minchin's side, aware that the whole schoolroom was devoting itself to observing her. She immediately spotted one little girl, about her own age, who looked at her very hard with a pair of light, rather dull, blue eyes. She did not look as if she were clever at all but looked agreeable. Her sandy hair was braided and tied with a ribbon. She had pulled it around her neck, and was biting the end of the ribbon, resting her elbows on the desk, as she stared at the new student. When Monsieur Dufarge, the French teacher, began to speak to Sara, this girl looked a little frightened. Then, when Sara stepped forward and, looking at him with the innocent, appealing eyes, answered him, without any warning, in French, the little girl gasped and grew quite red in her awe. She had wept hopeless tears for weeks in her efforts to remember that "la mere" meant "the mother", and "le pere", "the father". Thus, it was most surprising to listen to a child her own age who seemed not only to know these words, but who seemed to be able to make a good number of words dance and twirl with verbs to form sentences.

She stared so hard and bit the ribbon on her pigtail so fast that she attracted the attention of Miss Minchin, who, feeling extremely cross at that moment, immediately pounced upon her.

"Miss St. John!" she exclaimed severely. "What do you mean by such behaviour? Remove your elbows! Take your ribbon out of your mouth! Sit up at once!"

Miss St. John jumped and squealed like a startled rabbit, and when Lavinia and Jessie sniggered, her face turned into a bright red tomato. Sara saw her and was so sorry for her that she began to like her and want to be her friend. She always wanted to spring into action when someone was made uncomfortable or unhappy.

"If Sara lived a few centuries ago," her father used to say, "she would have gone about the country like a heroine, rescuing and defending everyone in distress."

When lessons were over and the students gathered in groups to talk, Sara looked for Miss St. John and finding her bundled rather miserably in a secluded window-seat, she walked over and spoke to her.

"What is your name?" she said.

To explain Miss St. John's amazement, one must remember that a new student is always a mystery at first and she was eager to know more about her. And the entire school had talked about this new student the night before until it fell asleep quite exhausted by excitement and contradictory stories. Miss St. John had not spoken a word, but she had listened to all that was said. A new girl with a carriage and a pony and a maid, and a voyage from India to discuss was not an ordinary acquaintance.

"My name's Ermengarde St. John," she answered.

"Mine is Sara Crewe," said Sara. "Yours is very pretty. It sounds like a story book."

"Do...do... you like it?" stammered Ermengarde timidly. "I...I like yours."

40 Miss St. John's trouble in life was that she had a clever father. Mr. St. John, whose brain was a room powered by a thousand light bulbs, could not understand how a child of his could be such a dull, timid creature who never shone in anything.

Having been looked down on all her life, Ermengarde now felt a lump in her throat and her eyes teared up. "Lavinia and Jessie are best friends," she said rather huskily. "I wish we could be best friends. Would you have me for yours?"

45 "Yes. We will be friends. And I'll tell you what," – a sudden gleam lighting her face- "I can help you with your French lessons."

Adapted from *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.