

King's High School English Department
Sample Entrance Examination Paper
Time Allowed: 45 minutes

EXTRACT:

- Printed below is an extract taken from *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo.
- In the story the main character and narrator, Michael, and his dog Stella, are washed upon an island in the Pacific. The only other human being on the island is an old man who claims the island belongs to him, and banishes Michael to one side of the island while the old man lives on the other side. Desperate to be rescued Michael builds a signal fire on top of a hill, planning to light it when a ship passes.
- Just before the events of the extract printed below a ship (called a junk) goes past the island, but the old man destroys Michael's signal fire before it can be lit. Michael is furious and decides to take his revenge.

I stood there watching the junk until it was nothing but a spot on the horizon, until I could not bear to watch any more. By this time I had already decided how best I could defy him. I was so enraged that consequences didn't matter to me. Not anymore. With Stella beside me I headed along the beach, stopped at the boundary line in the sand and then, very deliberately stepped over it. As I did so, I let him know precisely what I was doing.

"Are you watching old man?" I shouted. "Look! I've crossed over. I've crossed your silly line. And now I'm going to swim. I don't care what you say. I don't care if you don't feed me. You hear me old man?" Then I turned and charged down the beach into the sea. I swam furiously, until I was completely exhausted and a long way from the shore. I trod water and thrashed the sea in my fury – making it boil and froth all around me. "It's my sea as much as yours", I cried. "And I'll swim in it when I like".

I saw him then. He appeared suddenly at the edge of the forest. He was shouting something at me, waving his stick. That was the moment I felt it, a searing, stinging pain in the back of my neck, then my back, and my arms too. A large, translucent white jellyfish was floating right beside me, its tentacles groping at me. I tried to swim away but it came after me, hunting me. I was stung again, in my foot this time. The agony was immediate and excruciating. It permeated my entire body like one continuous electric shock. I felt my muscles going rigid. I kicked for the shore, but I could not do it. My legs seemed paralysed, my arms too. I was sinking, and there was nothing I could do about it. I saw the jellyfish poised for the kill above me now. I screamed, and my mouth filled with water. I was choking. I was going to die, I was going to drown but I did not care. I just wanted the pain to stop. Death I knew would stop it.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

SPEND 25 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION, INCLUDING READING TIME.
YOU MUST WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN FULL SENTENCES.

1. In the first paragraph Michael describes himself as being '*so enraged that consequences didn't matter to me*'. Explain in your own words what you think he means by this.
(1 mark)
2. Find TWO pieces of evidence from the first and second paragraphs that tell you that Michael is upset and angry with the old man.
(2 marks)
3. What do the following words from the second and third paragraphs mean: *thrashed*; *translucent*; *excruciating*?
(3 marks)
4. In the third paragraph Michael "*thrashed the sea in my fury - making it boil and froth around all me*". Explain in your own words what you think this description means and how it reflects Michael's mood.
(3 marks)
5. In the third paragraph the jellyfish attack is described in detail. Find TWO pieces of evidence that create tension and a feeling of danger in this paragraph. Explain in your own words why they are effective.
(5 marks)

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING

SPEND 20 MINUTES ON THIS SECTION

6. Read the extract from *Kensuke's Kingdom* again. Continue the story for at least another two paragraphs, making up the things that happen next to Michael. Do not introduce any new characters. (10 marks)

Do not worry if you have read the book or not, you will be marked on the quality of your writing not your knowledge of the book.