

ALLEGATO C

SIMULAZIONE SECONDA PROVA D'ESAME

NOME: CLASSE: DATA:

SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA - SIMULAZIONE

INDIRIZZO: LICEO LINGUISTICO

LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE)

When I was young, there seemed to be never a childbirth, or a burst appendix, or any other drastic physical event that did not occur simultaneously with a snowstorm. The roads would be closed, there was no question of digging out a car anyway, and some horses had to be hitched up to make their way into town to the hospital. It was just lucky that there were horses still around – in the normal course of events they would have been given up, but the war and the gas rationing had changed all that, at least for the time being.

When the pain in my side struck, therefore, it had to do so at about eleven o' clock at night, and a blizzard had to be blowing, and since we were not stabling any horses at the moment, the neighbours' team had to be brought into action to take me to the hospital. A trip of no more than a mile and a half but an adventure all the same. The doctor was waiting, and to nobody's surprise he prepared to take out my appendix.

Did more appendixes have to be taken out then? I know it still happens, and it is necessary – I even know of somebody who died because it did not happen soon enough – but as I remember it was a kind of rite that quite a few people my age had to undergo, not in large numbers by any means but not all that unexpectedly, and perhaps not all that unhappily, because it meant a holiday from school and it gave one some kind of status – set you apart, briefly, as one touched by the wing of mortality, all at a time in your life when that could be gratifying.

So I lay, minus my appendix, for some days looking out a hospital window at the snow sifting in a somber way through some evergreens. I don't suppose it ever crossed my head to wonder how my father was going to pay for this distinction. (I think he sold a woodlot that he had kept when he disposed of his father's farm. He would have hoped to use it for trapping or sugaring. Or perhaps he felt an unmentionable nostalgia).

Then I went back to school, and I enjoyed being excused from physical training for longer than necessary, and one Saturday morning when my mother and I were alone in the kitchen she told me that my appendix had been taken out in the hospital, just as I thought, but it was not the only thing removed. The doctor had seen fit to take it out while he was at it, but the main thing that concerned him was a growth. A growth, my mother said, the size of a turkey's egg.

But don't worry, she said, it's all over now

The thought of cancer never entered my head and she never mentioned it. I don't think there could be such a revelation today without some kind of question, some probing about whether it was or it wasn't. Cancerous or benign – we would want to know at once. The only way I can

explain our failure to speak of it was that there must have been a cloud around that word like the cloud around the mention of sex. Worse, even. [...]

So I did not ask and I wasn't told and can only suppose it was benign or was most skilfully got rid of, for here I am today. And so little do I think of it that all through my life when called upon to list my surgeries, I automatically say or write "Appendix".

This conversation with my mother would have taken place in the Easter holidays, when all the snowstorms and snowy mountains had vanished and the creeks were flood [...]

In the heat of early June I got out of school, having made good enough marks to free me from the final examinations. I looked very well, I did chores around the house, I read books as usual, nobody knew there was a thing the matter with me. [...]

[683 words]
Dear Life

From: Alice Munro, "Night",

London, Vintage Books, 2012, pgs

271-273

COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences and your own words

1. What sort of coincidence seemed to mark the happening of important physical events during the narrator's childhood?
2. What type of transportation was usually used in these circumstances and why?
3. What happened to her one evening at about eleven o'clock?
4. Why could this event be looked at "not all that unhappily"?
5. What did she discover one Saturday morning?
6. What appears to have been the main reason for the surgery performed on the narrator as a girl?
7. How did her mother deal with this revelation?
8. According to the narrator, what type of reaction would a revelation of this sort cause today and why wasn't it addressed at the time?
9. Has the revelation bothered the narrator over the years? How do you know?
10. The events recalled in the passage cover a number of seasons or times of the year. What are they?

PRODUCTION

Choose one of the following questions.

Number your answer clearly to show which question you have attempted:

Either

1. The passage is taken from a work by the Canadian author, Alice Munro, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2013. She considers this work, called "Night", together with three others published in the collection *Dear Life*, as "autobiographical in feeling, though not, sometimes, entirely so in facts". Refer to one or more literary works you have read that have autobiographical aspects to them, in "feeling" or in "fact", and illustrate in an essay of approximately 300 words

Or

2. One of the themes the passage deals with regards the reactions one might have to an unexpected revelation or moment of truth. Think of a circumstance in which this has happened to you and how you coped with it. Write a composition of about 300 words on it

Durata massima della prova: 4 ore

E' consentito soltanto l'uso dei dizionari monolingue e bilingue

NOME: CLASSE: DATA:

SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA – SIMULAZIONE

INDIRIZZO: LICEO LINGUISTICO

LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE)

THE BLIND MAN (TEXT N.1)

Isabel Pervin was listening for two sounds - for the sound of wheels on the drive outside and for the noise of her husband's footsteps in the hall. Her dearest and oldest friend, a man who seemed almost indispensable to her living, would drive up in the rainy dusk of the closing November day. The trap had gone to fetch him from the station. And her husband, who had been blinded in Flanders, and who had a disfiguring mark on his brow, would be coming in from the outhouses. He had been home for a year now. He was totally blind. Yet they had been very happy. The Grange was Maurice's own place. The back was a farmstead, and the Wernhams, who occupied the rear premises, acted as farmers. Isabel lived with her husband in the handsome rooms in front. She and he had been almost entirely alone together since he was wounded. They talked and sang and read together in a wonderful and unspeakable intimacy. Then she reviewed books for a Scottish newspaper, carrying on her old interest, and he occupied himself a good deal with the farm. Sightless, he could still discuss everything with Wernham, and he could also do a good deal of work about the place - menial work, it is true, but it gave him satisfaction. He milked the cows, carried in the pails, turned the separator, attended to the pigs and horses. Life was still very full and strangely serene for the blind man, peaceful with the almost incomprehensible peace of immediate contact in darkness. With his wife he had a whole world, rich and real and invisible. They were newly and remotely happy. He did not even regret the loss of his sight in these times of dark, palpable joy. A certain exultance swelled his soul. But as time wore on, sometimes the rich glamour would leave them. Sometimes, after months of this intensity, a sense of burden overcame Isabel, a weariness, a terrible *ennui*, in that silent house approached between a colonnade of tall-shafted pines. Then she felt she would go mad, for she could not bear it. And sometimes he had devastating fits of depression, which seemed to lay waste his whole being. It was worse than depression - a black misery, when his own life was a torture to him, and when his presence was unbearable to his wife. The dread went down to the roots of her soul as these black days recurred. In a kind of panic, she tried to wrap herself up still further in her husband. She forced the old spontaneous cheerfulness and joy to continue. But the effort it cost her was almost too much. She knew she could not keep it up. She felt she would scream with the strain, and would give anything, anything to escape. She longed to possess her husband utterly; it gave her inordinate joy to have him entirely to herself. And yet, when again he was gone in a black and massive misery, she could not bear him, she could not bear herself; she wished she could be snatched away off the earth altogether, anything rather than live at this cost

(From D.H. Lawrence, *The Blind Man in England*, My England, Penguin Books, pp. 55-56)

COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences and your own words

1. There are other people besides Isabel, in the story. Who are they?

2. In what period is the story set?
3. Where does the action take place?
4. Quote all the details regarding Maurice's physical condition.
5. How do the characters spend their time?
6. At first, the text seems to suggest that they lead a happy, serene life. However, the last paragraph conveys a different idea. Quote the expressions which describe the characters' real feelings.
7. How would you explain the apparent contradiction in the man's state of mind?
8. What contrasting feelings torture Isabel

COMPOSITION

Even in advanced societies, having a physical disability presents enormous challenges and calls for solidarity and support both in the family and in society.

Comment on this statement in an essay of approximately 300 words

Notice of public meeting:

The M32 development (TEXT N.2)

The Fortescue Neighbourhood Action Group is urging residents to attend a public meeting to hear the concerns of local residents and families of pupils from Fortescue Primary School about the approval of the final stage of the M32 motorway. On 17 April, the Government approved Stage 3 of the M32 motorway development, which will affect the Fortescue area. It was not until ten days later that this approval was finally announced.

Date: May 5

Time: 6:30 pm,

Location: Jarrah Community Hall, corner of Fortescue Road and Huxley Parade, Fortescue.

Speakers: Ann Banks (Local council)

 Marcin Kowalski (Parents Association, Fortescue Primary)

 Louise Chang (President, Conservation Volunteers)

45 minutes will be reserved for questions and public comment

Community organisations successfully lobbied for more dedicated parks and for noise restrictions in Zone 1. The developers, BD Construction, acted on this due to objections from the community. We have to keep up the pressure!

Points of concern:

- In the first stage of the development, the majority of wildlife and birds in the area moved (or were moved by conservation groups) from Zone 1 to Zone 2. Now that Zone 2 is to be

developed, no policy exists to assist these animals; they have little chance of finding an appropriate habitat nearby.

- It is unclear how the motorway will improve traffic on Packers Road.
- There has been no announcement about how to manage the traffic bottleneck in Bradford Street that will result from roadworks.
- Traffic jams/gridlock are anticipated on the arterial roads surrounding the entry point to the new section of motorway.
- The Environmental Impact Statement put out by BD Construction for Stage 3 does not specifically address the issue of noise and pollution in Hyde's Reserve.
- With Fortescue Primary School just 50 metres from the main construction site, school students will be subjected to years of dust and noise, and then by unfiltered emissions from vehicle exhaust pipes.
- Come along and have your say!

Questions 1-7

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading?

Write:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1 Stage 3 of the development was made public as soon as it was approved.

2 The developers responded to public complaints about Zone 1.

3 The meeting will be led by a representative from the Parents Association.

4 There is a plan to safely relocate animals in Zone 2.

5 Packers Road currently has more traffic problems than Bradford Street.

6 The developers produced a document about the effects of the development on nature in the area.

7 Children will be affected by the construction activities

COMPOSITION:

Write an article of about 300 words explaining how economic development and environmental conservation can go together.

Durata massima della prova: 6 ore

E' consentito soltanto l'uso dei dizionari monolingue e bilingue