

Follower **by Seamus Heaney**

My father worked with a horse-plough
His shoulders globed like a full sail strung
Between the shafts and the furrow.
The horses strained at his clicking tongue. 4


An expert. He would set the wing
And fit the bright steel-pointed sock.
The sod rolled over without breaking.
At the headrig, with a single pluck 8

Of reins the sweating team turned round
And back into the land. His eye
Narrowed and angled at the ground,
Mapping the furrow exactly. 12

I stumbled in his hob-nailed wake,
Fell sometimes on his polished sod;
Sometimes he rode me on his back
Dipping and rising to his plod. 16

I wanted to grow up and plough
To close one eye, stiffen my arm.
All I ever did was follow
In his broad shadow round the farm. 20

I was a nuisance, tripping, falling,
Yapping always. But today
It is my father who keeps stumbling
Behind me, and will not go away. 24

 You should aim to spend approximately 30 minutes on each Section.

Section A

Read the poem by Seamus Heaney and answer all of the following questions.

1. What occupation did the speaker's father used to have? 1 mark
2. Find three examples (quotations or bits from the poem) to show that the speaker is proud of what his father used to be. 3 marks
3. Identify a SIMILE and explain its effect. 2 marks
4. How does the poet feel at the end of the last stanza [verse]? Support your answer with evidence. 4 marks
5. Explain how Seamus Heaney explains his feelings about his father. (Comment on the poem's language, style and tone, including evidence from the poem) 10 marks

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[20]

Section B

This section is a writing task of original work. It assesses your ability to convey ideas clearly in written form. Punctuation, content, creativity, construction, paragraphs, grammar, spelling and relevance to the task are all assessed.

Choose ONE of the following options to be the title of your story and compose an imaginative and engaging piece of writing accordingly:

- The Lost Treasure...
- The Worst Day of my Life...
- Welcome to the Jungle...
- I Hate it When That Happens...

[20]

Total Marks [40]