

## Ordinary Level English 2018

### Unseen Poem,

### Paper 2,

**1. From your reading of the above poem, outline what you learn about the poet and his family life. Support your answer with reference to the poem.**

From my reading of the above poem I learned a lot about the poet and his family life. The poet's family life is chaotic, noisy and dramatic. There seems to be a lot of drama in the house, with constant bickering and fighting over 'who's using whose brush' and who spilt 'nail polish on the wooden floor'. He refers to these squabbles and fighting when he says, 'when all hell breaks loose'. Neither of his daughters seem to take responsibility as he calls them 'Princess Not Me' and 'Miss I Didn't Do It'. They seem to be persistent in their demands as he refers to them 'campaigning for a puppy'.

The poet doesn't seem to be able to cope with all the drama. He looks for advice from his doctor who says 'You're surprised there's drama?' and sympathy from his best friend who refers to his home as 'The House of Estrogen'. He seems to feel sorry for himself as he is the only male in a house full of women and feels outnumbered. He buys a 'boy dog to even the score'. I think he shows a devious side here because he seems to be buying the puppy for his daughters but instead uses it as an excuse to leave the house and 'walk for hours and hours'. This gets him away from the drama and gives him time to himself. As he says himself, 'this is perfect'. The poem ends with an upbeat feeling as he says that he can 'walk and walk and walk some more'. The poet seems to have gained the peace he seeks.

**2. Did you enjoy the above poem? Give reasons for your response, supported by reference to the poem.**

I enjoyed the poem. I thought it was easy to relate to, humorous and accessible. I think most of us can easily relate to the situation the poet finds himself in. Most home can be busy and chaotic, most families will have times when they don't get on with each other. Sometimes this can all be bit much to take. This feeling can be increased if you are the

only male or female in a household and like the poet you feel that you are outnumbered. I think the poet's house is very typical with squabbles over hairbrushes and makeup, and children asking for a puppy. I think it is an affectionate but realistic picture of family life. That's what makes it so easy to relate to. This makes the poem very accessible.

Another factor that makes it accessible is its language. The poet uses very simple, everyday language which everyone can understand. There's no need to look up difficult words. You don't have to know about Greek mythology or Roman history to understand it. The poem takes place in a typical home, with a typical family. The language is the language we all use to talk about family life. The phrases 'Not me' and 'I didn't do it' are very familiar to us all. I also think the poem is quite funny. I like the fact that his 'best friend' offers no sympathy but just refers to the poet's home as the 'House of Estrogen'. I like the fact that the poet thinks he has tricked his daughters by buying a puppy he actually wants. I think it's funny that he feels so sorry for himself that he buys a 'boy dog' to have someone to talk to. All in all, I enjoyed the poem.