

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2019 English

Ordinary Level

Paper 2

## ROOM – Emma Donoghue

Based on events in the novel, *Room*, write a front page newspaper article beginning with the following headline:

**“BRAVE BOY HELPS POLICE FREE MISSING MOTHER”**

Your article should demonstrate your knowledge of this aspect of the novel.

### **“BRAVE BOY HELPS POLICE FREE MISSING MOTHER”**

The actions of a brave five-year old boy has finally solved the mystery of the disappearance of Joy Newsom. Ms. Newsom (28), previously presumed dead, was rescued after an intensive police operation last night.

**Commented [DH1]:** The first paragraph quickly gives an overview of the events.

The dramatic events unfolded when police responded to what was initially thought to be a case of child abduction. Local man Geoff Wayne (42) was walking his dog when he encountered a man with a young child in distress. 'At first I thought it was a girl cos his hair was so long. He ran into me and when I tried to check he was okay the guy he was with got real aggressive real quick', said Wayne. When Wayne challenged the man he abandoned the child and drove off at speed.

**Commented [DH2]:** The second paragraph gives more detail. You can create names and ages of supporting characters.

Police officers were quickly on the scene and initially suspected cult membership as the child was withdrawn and found it hard to speak. However, under patient questioning from Officer Stephanie Crowe, it emerged that the young boy, who called himself Jack, and his mother, who he referred to as 'Ma' had been held captive in what he called 'Room' by a man known only to him as 'Old Nick'.

**Commented [DH3]:** You should show detailed knowledge of this key scene.

Using directions from 'Jack', satellite imaging and the description of the chief suspect's truck police were able to identify a shed in the back yard of a suburban house. The shed was locked with a sophisticated electronic device which the police had to break to release the boy's mother.

**Commented [DH4]:** You can use appropriate vocabulary from the book eg 'yard' and 'truck'.

Initial reports suggest that the boy and his mother had been held captive against their will in a single 11 by 11 ft room for a number of years. Their alleged captor was arrested at the scene and will appear before a special court tomorrow. Both mother and child have been taken to St Carmel Hospital for assessment and hope to be reunited with their family soon. A lawyer for the family has thanked the police for their swift action and has appealed for privacy.

**Commented [DH5]:** The final paragraph wraps up the story and uses an appropriately formal tone.