



# OUNDLE

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School

2015 Academic Scholarship

## English

Time Allowed: **Two Hours**

Instructions:

- It is important that you plan properly so that you give sufficient time and thought to the different parts of the paper.
- spend approximately **60 minutes** on each section.

## Section A

Read the extract below carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Please note that some questions are worth more marks than others.

Four mackerel corpses lie on a board. Neither of them likes mackerel – oily, dark fish with tough raincoat skin – but Daphne feels obliged to buy them once in a while because they are plentiful, cheap, and so all the cookbooks say, nutritious, full of life-giving oils and omega fats.

5 'You have to remove the backbone and then sort of dust them with flour before lightly pan-frying them.'

'Do you want me to help?'

'Please. It says how to fillet them on page twenty-one, but...'

10 He looks at the recipe. The picture shows the fish lying neatly on a plate, crisp, decorated with a small, casually composed salad of rocket, with a glistening mound of gooseberry sauce and a generous – not too refined - lemon wedge next to it.

'I couldn't get gooseberries but luckily we have a jar of lingonberries that we got in Sweden.'

'That was six years ago.'

'Do you think they will have gone off?'

'Everything goes off.'

15 He sharpens the knives and cuts off the heads and tries to remove the backbone. The flesh of the mackerel is bloody. When he finally pulls the backbone free, what's left of the fish looks like a swab from an operating theatre.

Daphne has opened the lingonberry sauce.

'It's a little crystallised around the top, but deep down it looks all right.'

20 'Fine. Let's have diced mackerel chunks with crystallised lingonberries and while we're at it why don't we see if we can find those Italian artichokes in oil which we have been keeping since 1979 for a special occasion. We'll just throw them casually around the plate, *à la* Rick<sup>1</sup> –'

'Charles. Please don't.'

He stares at her. His head is full, bulging from the inside against the walls.

25 'Daphne, do you mind if I bin these fishy remains?'

'You're not cross, are you?'

'No, why should I be? Shall we forget about mackerel for ever? We don't like them and they make the place stink.'

He slides the mackerel off the board and into the bin, and then he scrubs the board.

30 'Charlie<sup>2</sup> rang. He's in Buffalo. He said that they are going to take a few days in New York to get her things sorted out.'

He takes his hat off, but as he does so he realises that it will be impregnated with fish oil, which, however healthful, will for ever remain in the fibres of the tweed to remind him of the day they forsook mackerel and his daughter was let out of prison.

35 'How was your walk?'

'It was fine. Rained a bit, but I took shelter.'

Now they are standing in the kitchen, across the scrubbed table, a jar of lingonberry sauce separating them, but they both know there is a lot more, a sort of barely controllable turbulence.

'The Promise of Happiness' by Justin Cartwright

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<sup>1</sup> Rick Stein is a famous seafood cook

<sup>2</sup> Charlie is their son

1. What impression do you get of Daphne from the extract? Choose two quotations and discuss them in your answer. (4 marks)
2. Give an example of where the author has used juxtaposition and comment on the effects created. (3 marks)
3. How does the author make the mackerel sound unappealing to the reader? You should choose three quotations and focus on the language and imagery in your answer. (6 marks)
4. In your opinion, what do you think the extract is about? (2 marks)
5. How does the author portray the relationship between Daphne and Charles? Choose three quotations and discuss them in your answer, making any relevant comments about the language used. (6 marks)

## Section B

Answer **one** of the following tasks. Marks will be given for the accuracy and sophistication of your expression, as well as for your ideas. (25 marks)

- Continue the passage from Section A – write the next part of the story.
- Write a short imaginative piece entitled, 'The truth within'.