1.8-2 Cloze: Practice Set 2: 30-minute Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Beekeeper of Coldharbour

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). A short original story written specifically for this cloze worksheet; no existing text has been used or adapted.

Priya hopped down from the bus and hitched her rucksack higher onto her shoulder. The village of Coldharbour smelled of warm hay and distant woodsmoke, and swallows darted low across the lane in quick, curving lines. Her great-aunt, Beulah, was waiting by the garden gate, her grey plait coiled neatly at the back of her head. 'There you are,' Beulah said, pulling Priya into a warm hug that smelled of lavender soap. Together they wound their way down the gravel path towards the old cottage, its thatched roof golden in the afternoon sun. Priya had never seen anywhere so peaceful before. When they reached the porch, Beulah lifted a small brass latch and pushed the door open.

By the second afternoon, the sky had turned a heavy shade of grey, and Beulah said thunder was rumbling in from the hills. Priya helped her carry the smoker and veils down to the orchard, her boots squelching through the wet grass. Beulah explained that the old straw skep was no longer used for the bees day to day; a row of modern wooden hives had overtaken it years before, though she still kept it hanging in the shed just in case. As the first raindrops pattered against the greenhouse roof, Priya asked whether a swarm had ever caused real trouble on the smallholding. Beulah's expression turned grave, and she told Priya about a summer from her own mother's time, when a runaway swarm had settled inside the farmhouse chimney and very nearly started a fire. 'That is why we never leave the hives unattended,' Beulah said, 'no matter how busy or how hectic the season gets.' Priya nodded, and quietly resolved that she would not break her great-aunt's trust, whatever challenges the summer might bring. By early evening the wind had begun to howl, rattling the greenhouse panes and bending the apple trees along the fence.

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The heatwave broke on the hottest day of July. Priya was woken by a sound she could not immediately name, a low, thick hum rising from beyond the orchard fence. She found Beulah already outside in her nightgown, watching something with a stillness that made the older woman seem, for a moment, entirely unafraid. Above the third hive, a dark cloud of bees was gathering, thousands of wings glittering in the early light. Beulah did not flinch. She reached for the old straw skep hanging in the shed and began to move towards the swarm with slow, steady steps that Priya had never seen her take before. It was, Priya realised with a jolt, the first time in years that the ancient skep had been used for its true purpose rather than for decoration on the porch shelf. When the swarm finally settled inside the skep an hour later, Beulah set it down in the shade and said nothing at all, as though the whole event had been entirely commonplace. Only later, over breakfast, did she admit that her hands had been trembling the entire time.

1 Gap (10): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) praised
- [ ] B) followed
- [ ] C) matched
- [ ] D) overtaken

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2 Gap (11): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) shivered
- [ ] B) collapsed
- [ ] C) pattered
- [ ] D) glimmered

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3 Gap (12): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) proud
- [ ] B) grave
- [ ] C) playful
- [ ] D) puzzled

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4 Gap (13): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) unattended
- [ ] B) uncovered
- [ ] C) unopened
- [ ] D) unwatered

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5 Gap (14): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) silent
- [ ] B) short
- [ ] C) plain
- [ ] D) hectic

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6 Gap (15): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) discover
- [ ] B) repeat
- [ ] C) break
- [ ] D) misplace

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7 Gap (16): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) forget
- [ ] B) bring
- [ ] C) delay
- [ ] D) hide

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8 Gap (17): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) howl
- [ ] B) murmur
- [ ] C) fade
- [ ] D) settle

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9 Read the extract below, then answer the questions that follow. No word bank or options are given this time; write the single word you think best completes each numbered gap.

Extract 3: The Swarm

The heatwave broke on the hottest day of July. Priya was woken by a sound she could not immediately (18)_____, a low, thick hum rising from beyond the orchard fence. She found Beulah already outside in her nightgown, watching something with a stillness that made the older woman seem, for a moment, entirely unafraid. Above the third hive, a dark cloud of bees was gathering, thousands of wings glittering in the early light. Beulah did not (19)_____. She reached for the old straw skep hanging in the shed and began to move towards the swarm with slow, (20)_____ steps that Priya had never seen her take before. It was, Priya realised with a jolt, the first time in years that the ancient skep had been (21)_____ for its true purpose rather than for decoration on the porch shelf. When the swarm finally settled inside the skep an hour later, Beulah set it down in the shade and said nothing at all, as though the whole event had been entirely (22)_____. Only later, over breakfast, did she admit that her hands had been (23)_____ the entire time.

(1)

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10 Gap (19): write the single word that best completes the sentence in Extract 3.

(1)

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11 Gap (22): write the single word that best completes the sentence in Extract 3.

(1)

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12 The word bank for Extract 1 contained three words that were not needed to complete any gap: 'bundled', 'heaved' and 'hovered'. Choose ONE of these three words and explain why it would not fit as well as the word actually used in that gap.

(2)

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13 Read the extract below, then answer the questions that follow. This time no word bank is given. For each numbered gap, choose the option (A, B, C or D) that best completes the sentence.

Extract 2: Clouds Over the Orchard

By the second afternoon, the sky had turned a heavy shade of grey, and Beulah said thunder was (8)_____ in from the hills. Priya helped her carry the smoker and veils down to the orchard, her boots (9)_____ through the wet grass. Beulah explained that the old straw skep was no longer used for the bees day to day; a row of modern wooden hives had (10)_____ it years before, though she still kept it hanging in the shed just in case. As the first raindrops (11)_____ against the greenhouse roof, Priya asked whether a swarm had ever caused real trouble on the smallholding. Beulah's expression turned (12)_____, and she told Priya about a summer from her own mother's time, when a runaway swarm had settled inside the farmhouse chimney and very nearly started a fire. 'That is why we never leave the hives (13)_____,' Beulah said, 'no matter how busy or how (14)_____ the season gets.' Priya nodded, and quietly resolved that she would not (15)_____ her great-aunt's trust, whatever challenges the summer might (16)_____. By early evening the wind had begun to (17)_____, rattling the greenhouse panes and bending the apple trees along the fence.

- [ ] A) sparkling
- [ ] B) rumbling
- [ ] C) drizzling
- [ ] D) melting

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14 Gap (9): choose the option that best completes the sentence in Extract 2.

- [ ] A) squelching
- [ ] B) gliding
- [ ] C) skipping
- [ ] D) tiptoeing

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15 Read the extract below, then answer the questions that follow. Each numbered gap has been removed from the original story. A word bank is given below the extract; use it to help you complete gaps (1) to (6). Each word in the bank may be used once, and not every word will be needed.

Extract 1: The Journey to Coldharbour

Priya hopped down from the bus and (1)_____ her rucksack higher onto her shoulder. The village of Coldharbour smelled of warm hay and distant woodsmoke, and swallows (2)_____ low across the lane in quick, curving lines. Her great-aunt, Beulah, was waiting by the garden gate, her grey plait (3)_____ neatly at the back of her head. 'There you are,' Beulah said, pulling Priya into a warm hug that smelled of lavender soap. Together they (4)_____ their way down the gravel path towards the old cottage, its thatched roof golden in the afternoon sun. Priya had never (5)_____ anywhere so peaceful before. When they reached the porch, Beulah (6)_____ a small brass latch and pushed the door open.

Word bank: bundled, coiled, darted, heaved, hitched, hovered, lifted, seen, wound

(1)

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16 Gap (2): using the word bank above, choose the word that best completes the sentence in Extract 1.

(1)

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17 Gap (3): using the word bank above, choose the word that best completes the sentence in Extract 1.

(1)

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18 Gap (4): using the word bank above, choose the word that best completes the sentence in Extract 1.

(1)

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19 Gap (5): using the word bank above, choose the word that best completes the sentence in Extract 1.

(1)

20 Gap (6): using the word bank above, choose the word that best completes the sentence in Extract 1.

(1)

21 Gap (20): write the single word that best completes the sentence in Extract 3.

(1)

22 Gap (21): write the single word that best completes the sentence in Extract 3.

(1)

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23 Gap (23): write the single word that best completes the sentence in Extract 3.

(1)

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24 Look again at Extract 3 and the words you supplied for gaps (18) to (23). Explain how the writer's choice of words in this extract creates a tense and dramatic atmosphere, before settling into a calm close. In your answer, refer to at least two examples of word choice from the extract (for example 'flinch', 'steady' or 'trembling') and comment on the effect each has on the reader.

(6)

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Mark scheme · 1.8-2 Cloze: Practice Set 2: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

selects 'overtaken' (cao) **B1**

Answer: overtaken

Question 2

selects 'pattered' (cao) **B1**

Answer: pattered

Question 3

selects 'grave' (cao) **B1**

Answer: grave

Question 4

selects 'unattended' (cao) **B1**

Answer: unattended

Question 5

selects 'hectic' (cao) **B1**

Answer: hectic

Question 6

selects 'break' (cao) **B1**

Answer: break

Question 7

selects 'bring' (cao) **B1**

Answer: bring

Question 8

selects 'howl' (cao) **B1**

Answer: howl

Question 9

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'name' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: name

Question 10

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'flinch' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: flinch

Question 11

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'commonplace' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: commonplace

Question 12

identifies a clear reason why the chosen unused word does not fit the meaning, tone or grammar of the sentence as well as the word actually used (oe) **B1**

supports the explanation with reference to the specific sentence or gap in Extract 1 (oe) **B1**

Answer: Example: 'heaved' would not fit gap (1) as well as 'hitched' because heaving a bag suggests great effort or strain, whereas hitching a bag higher onto a shoulder is a quick, casual adjustment that better suits Priya's easy arrival in the village.

Question 13

selects 'rumbling' (cao) **B1**

Answer: rumbling

Question 14

selects 'squelching' (cao) **B1**

Answer: squelching

Question 15

writes 'hitched' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: hitched

Question 16

writes 'darted' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: darted

Question 17

writes 'coiled' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: coiled

Question 18

writes 'wound' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: wound

Question 19

writes 'seen' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: seen

Question 20

writes 'lifted' (cao, from word bank) **B1**

Answer: lifted

Question 21

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'steady' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: steady

Question 22

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'used' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: used

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Question 23

writes an acceptable equivalent of 'trembling' (oe, cao for exact word) **B1**

Answer: trembling

Question 24

Level 1 Basic or general comment on the atmosphere, with little or no reference to specific word choices and minimal explanation of effect. **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant comments on word choice, generally supported by reference to the extract, with a partial or list-like explanation of effect on the reader. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear, well-supported analysis of at least two word choices, showing a secure understanding of how tension is built and then how the mood shifts to a calmer close, with perceptive comment on the effect on the reader. **5-6**

Indicative content:

- The 'low, thick hum' at the opening unsettles the reader before its source is identified, building tension through the unknown.
- 'Did not flinch' shows Beulah's controlled composure despite the danger, contrasting with the drama unfolding around her and heightening admiration for her expertise.
- 'Slow, steady steps' reinforces calm, deliberate control under pressure, contrasting with the urgency of the swarm gathering overhead.
- 'Commonplace' at the close creates an anticlimactic, understated contrast with the earlier drama, reflecting Beulah's lifelong experience of such moments.
- The final revelation that her hands had been 'trembling' retrospectively undercuts her outward calm, adding emotional depth by showing hidden fear beneath composure.
- The shift from urgent, sensory vocabulary describing the swarm to calm, quiet vocabulary at the end mirrors the resolution of the crisis.

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