

## Comprehension

Task 5 -  
PoetryCarefully read the poem below and answer  
questions 26 to 32 using complete sentences.

## The Donkey

I saw a donkey  
One day old,  
His head was too big  
For his neck to hold;  
5 His legs were shaky  
And long and loose,  
They rocked and staggered  
And weren't much use.  
He tried to gambol\*  
10 And frisk a bit,  
But he wasn't sure  
Of the trick of it.  
His queer little coat  
Was soft and grey  
15 And curled at his neck  
In a lovely way.  
His face was wistful  
And left no doubt  
That he felt life needed  
20 Some thinking out.  
So he blundered round  
In venturous quest  
And then lay flat  
On the ground to rest.  
25 He looked so little  
And weak and slim  
I prayed the world  
Might be good to him.

Gertrude Hinds

\* gambol — skipping about

26. How old was the donkey at the beginning of the poem? (1 mark)27. Give **two** words to describe the appearance of the donkey (2 marks) in the poem.

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

28. Which sense does the poet mainly appeal to in the poem? (2 marks)  
Write a line to support your answer.

Sense: \_\_\_\_\_

Line: \_\_\_\_\_

29. Explain why the donkey laid flat on the ground. (2 marks)30. "But he wasn't sure of the trick of it" (lines 11 to 12), what (2 marks) does that line tell about the donkey?31. Write a line from the poem that shows that the donkey could (2 marks) not walk well.32. Quote the lines in the poem that suggests that the poet cared (2 marks) about the donkey.

TOTAL: (13 MARKS)

13