

This passage is set in America and is about two brothers, Adam and Charles Trask.

1 Adam Trask spent five years in the army doing the things an army uses to keep its men from
going insane – endless polishing of metal and leather, parades and drills. His time as a soldier
was up before he knew it and late in 1890 he left the army in San Francisco. Letters between
Adam and his brother, Charles, who worked on the family farm, had become very rare but
5 Adam wrote to his brother just before he left the army, 'This time I'm coming home,' and that
was the last Charles heard of him for over three years.

Adam waited out the winter in the warmth of San Francisco and when the spring came,
he had no money. He started eastward towards home, a journey of 2000 miles, sometimes
walking and sometimes risking a ride under slow-moving goods trains. He learned to beg, not
10 for money but for food. He learned the technique of shaving with broken glass, of judging a
house before knocking to ask for a handout. He learned to avoid hostile police. He was picked
up once for being homeless and the police and prisoners frightened him. He travelled alone
after that and made sure he was shaven and clean. He became an expert at hiding his own
personality so that he attracted neither anger nor jealousy. He took pleasure in his new life.

15 Still a long way from home, he was arrested by the sheriff's men for being homeless and
put on a road gang. That's how the roads were built. His sentence was six months but when
he was released he was immediately picked up again for a second six months. The gang
were guarded at work by dogs and men with shotguns and chained by the ankle at night.
He learned that drawing attention to himself – an eye raised to meet an eye – brought harsh
20 punishment so he drew a curtain around himself. He removed expression from his face, light
from his eyes and silenced his speech. He became as invisible as it is possible to be. When
the guards were not afraid of him escaping, they gave him jobs of cleaning the camp, of
handing out food to the prisoners and filling water buckets.

Adam waited until three days before his second release was due. Knowing that he would be
25 arrested again on his release, in the afternoon he went to the river to fill the water buckets but
he filled them with stones and sank them. He then eased himself into the water and swam a
long way downstream. He rested and then swam farther down. He kept moving until at dusk
he found a place with bushes for cover. He did not get out of the water.

Late in the night he heard the dogs go by on both sides of the river.

30 Adam had trained himself not to hurry. Most men were caught bolting so he took five days to
cross the short distance into the nearest town. He took no chances, held back his impatience
with an iron control. He was astonished at himself.

On the edge of town he lay hidden until long after midnight and he entered the town like a
shadow. He crept to the rear of a cheap store and forced a window slowly so the screws of the
35 lock were pulled from the wood. He stole a pair of trousers, a shirt, black shoes, black hat and
a raincoat. He forced himself to make sure nothing looked disturbed before he climbed out of
the window. He had not even looked for the cash drawer. He lowered the window carefully and
slipped from shadow to shadow in the moonlight.

He lay hidden in the day and went in search of food at night. He took turnips and a few
40 windfall apples, nothing that would be missed. He rubbed his shoes and raincoat with sand to
destroy their newness. He waited three days until he got the rain he felt he needed.

The rain started late in the afternoon. Adam huddled under his raincoat, waiting for dark,
and when night fell he walked through the town with his hat pulled down. He made his
way to the station and peered through a rain-blurred window. The station manager was
45 leaning through the ticket window, talking to a friend. It was twenty minutes before the friend
went away. Adam took a deep breath to calm himself and sneaked onto the waiting train,
unobserved.

SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage in the **separate Resource Material** for use with **Section A**.
Then answer **all** the questions below.

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Read lines 1–6.List **five** things you learn about Adam Trask in these lines.

[5]

0	2
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Read lines 7–14.

What impressions does the writer create of Adam Trask in these lines?

[5]

You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

0	3
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Read lines 15–47.

How does the writer create drama and tension in these lines?

[10]

You should write about:

- what happens in these lines to create drama and tension
- the writer's use of language and structure to create drama and tension

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

0	4
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Read lines 48–87.

What impressions does the writer create of the relationship between Charles and Adam Trask in these lines? How does the writer create these impressions?

[10]

You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

0	5
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To answer this question, you must consider the passage as a whole.

"The writer does not present either brother in a positive way in this passage."

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

[10]

You should write about:

- your thoughts and feelings about the brothers in the passage as a whole
- how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings

You must refer to the text to support your answer.

