



Upper secondary
Week 9

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES
SECTION B



Section B

[20 Marks]

Text 2

The excerpt below tells about a man who apparently has in his care a baby for whom he tries to get milk but is inhibited in his efforts because of certain factors. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5 – 13.

- 1 The sun, like a huge fireball, rose hissing out of the East River, a broad, red disc of heat. It swept the cross-streets of the city as pitilessly as the search-light of a man-of-war sweeps the ocean. It blazed brazenly into open windows, and changed beds into grids on which the sleepers tossed and turned and woke unrefreshed and with throats dry and parched. Its glare awakened Rags into a startled belief that the place about him was on fire, and he stared wildly until the child in his arms brought him back to the knowledge of where he was. 5
- 2 He ached in every joint and limb, and his eyes smarted with the dry heat, but the baby concerned him most, for she was breathing with hard, long, irregular gasps, her mouth was open and her absurdly small fists were clenched, and around her closed eyes were deep blue rings. Rags felt a cold rush of fear and uncertainty engulfing him as he stared about him helplessly for aid. 10
- 3 He had seen babies look like this before; they were like this when the young doctors of the Health Board climbed to the roofs to see them, and they were like this, only quiet and still, when the ambulance bore them away. Rags carried the baby into the outer room, where the bullying sun had not yet penetrated, and laid her down gently on the coverlets; then he let the water in the sink run until it was fairly cool, and with this, bathed the baby's face and hands and feet, and lifted a cup of the water to her open lips. She woke at this and smiled again, but very faintly, and when she looked at him, he felt fearfully sure that she did not know him, and that she was looking through and past him at something he could not see. 20
- 4 He did not know what to do, and he wanted to do so much. Milk was the only thing he was quite sure babies cared for, but in want of this he made a mess of bits of the dry meat and crumbs of bread, moistened with water, and put it to her lips on the end of a spoon. The baby tasted this, and pushed his hand away. Rags was near distraught. 25
- 5 He thought of the people who he still believed inhabited the rest of the tenement, and concluding that they might still be asleep, he could 'lift' whatever they might have laid away for breakfast. Excited with this hope, he ran noiselessly down the stairs in his bare feet, and tried the doors of the different landings. But each he found open and each room bare and deserted. 30
- Then it occurred to him that at this hour he might even risk a venture into the street. He had money with him, and the milk-carts and bakers' wagons must be passing every minute. He ran back to get the money out of his coat, delighted with the chance and chiding himself for not having dared to do it sooner. He stood over the baby a moment before he left the room, and flushed like a girl as he stooped and kissed one of the bare arms. "I'm going out to get you some breakfast," he said. 35

"I won't be gone long, but if I should," he added, as he paused and shrugged his shoulders, "I'll send the sergeant after you from the police station. If I only wasn't under bonds," he muttered, as he slipped down the stairs.

6 He stopped at the top of the first flight of stairs and sat down to wait. He could see below the top of the open front door, the pavement and a part of the street beyond, and when he heard the rattle of an approaching cart he ran on down and then, with an oath, turned and broke up-stairs again. If only he could get to the cart without the detectives seeing him

5. Explain how the language used in paragraph 1 showed how merciless the sun was that morning.

Support your ideas with three details from paragraph 1.

[3]

6. At the beginning of paragraph 3, 'He had seen babies look like this before; they were like this when the young doctors of the Health Board climbed to the roofs to see them, and they were like this, only quiet and still, when the ambulance bore them away.'

Identify the word or phrase in the given sentence which suggests

(i) Rags was familiar with babies –

[1]

(ii) motionless –

[1]

7. In paragraph 3 (line 16) '...where the bullying sun had not yet penetrated.'

(i) What is the sun being compared to here?

[1]

(ii) Why does the writer describe the sun in this way?

[1]

8. At the end of paragraph 2, (line 11), the writer writes, 'Rags felt a cold rush of fear...'

(i) What two things in the paragraph that was making Rags feel that 'cold rush of fear'? [1]

(ii) What is effective about the word 'engulfing'? [1]

9. In paragraph 4 (line 22) 'Milk was the only thing he was quite sure babies cared for, but in want of this...'

What is meant by 'in want of this' in the sentence? [1]

10. The writer uses similes 'like a huge fireball' (line 1) and 'as pitilessly as the searchlight of a man-of-war sweeps the ocean' (line 2).

What do these similes suggest about the writer's view of the sun? [2]

Similes	What they suggest about the writer's view of the sun
like a huge fireball	
as pitilessly as the searchlight of a man-of-war sweeps the ocean	

11. In paragraph 5 (line 28) the writer writes '...concluding that they might still be asleep, he could 'lift' whatever they might have laid away for breakfast'.

(i) Explain why Rags described the act of stealing as an act of 'lifting'? [1]

(ii) What is implied when Rags found the doors 'open and each room bare and deserted'?

[1]

12. Give evidence from paragraphs 5 and 6 to support the following:

(i) Rags was mentally prepared for the possibility that he might get arrested.[1]

(ii) He was equally concerned about getting milk for the baby and about getting arrested. [1]

13. The structure of the text reflects the main feelings Rags experienced throughout that day. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise the main feeling described in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box you do not need to use. [4]

Rags' feelings

gloomy	alarmed	distressed	contemplative
quashed	constructive	observant	

Flow Chart

Paragraph 3 : (i)



Paragraph 4 : (ii)



Paragraph 5 : (iii)



Paragraph 6 : (iv)