

Série L: Durée 3 heures – Coefficient 4

Série S: Durée 2 heures – Coefficient 2

Compréhension - 10 points

Expression - 10 points

There's a wet hiss of frying, a stink of sausages, a knock on the front door. My parents don't hear it, but Luca does; she's over the other side of the bedroom in a leap, sliding the net curtain over her head. She angles her face against the corner of the sash.

'It's the police! Come and see!'

5 Fran pokes her head out of the cocoon of bedding; her hair's all on end and her cheeks are flushed. She lets out a high-pitched cry as she ducks back under the blankets.

At the window I see the top of the policeman's helmet, and one shoulder with a number on it. There's a woman standing next to him. She's not wearing a hat. They both bend down and look through the letter box, then shout through it. I try to get a better view of them, but Luca's breath has steamed up the glass. She wipes at it with the net, so they're haloed in sketchy fog. The front door opens below us.

'Mrs Gaud?' says the woman, 'Would you mind if we came in and had a chat?'

Luca turns and pokes me.

'You go and listen,' she says.

15 'No-you go.'

'You! I'll stand guard.'

Standing Guard is a swizz (1); it means Luca's out of danger. She'll just wait for me to report back or get caught on the stairs. I can't get caught on the stairs. Luca knows what this means for me, but she doesn't care; she puts her face so close to mine that only her bared teeth are in focus.

20 'Go on!' she hisses.

The door at the turn of the stairs is slightly open. I put my head round and have a peep. Through the blue of smoke I see my mother standing at the sink, clutching a plate to her breast. My father sits at the table, with the woman just next to him, her notebook open on the cloth. The policeman's facing away from me. so I can only see the back of his head and the dent in his hair where his helmet has pinched: it sits like a giant tea-cosy on the table. They're still as a painting. I don't know her, but I can tell he's PC (2) Mitchell by the way he coughs before he speaks.

25 Erm - it's a very serious offence. Mrs Gauci, he says, Mr and Mrs Evans could have been killed!

As it is, they've lost everything, says the woman.

Are they hurt? Maybe - my mother starts to ask. but my father bangs both his hands down flat on the spread pages of the Sporting Life.

Bring her! He shouts, Bring her Now!

35 From behind me is a sound light as silk; it's Fran, brushing past in her nightie. She creeps down to the bottom step.

My father leaps forward at the sight of her; she jerks like a puppet off his fist. He holds his arm raised high - he'll club her again if she moves, but Fran knows the best way to behave in these moments. We all do. She stays absolutely motionless, taking small sips of air through her mouth. PC Mitchell steps forward, but my mother gets there first. She cracks my father against the pantry door.

40 'What proof have you got!' she cries, not to the police but to Frankie, 'Prove she did wrong! Go on!'

They stare at each other, panting. My mother has her hands by her sides now. But she holds them open. She's ready to tear.

45 'Roy and Tommy Jackson,' says PC Mitchell quietly. Erm - they've made a statement, Mary.

He moves her back to the table and gently presses her down into his seat. 'They saw her in the Evanses' shop last night. Lighting a tire,' they said.

50 Below me, Fran sips air.

Trezza Azzopardi, *The Hiding Place*, Grove Press 2002

(1) swizz: arnaque

(2) PC: Police Constable

Vous traiterez les questions dans l'ordre, en indiquant clairement leur numéro sur votre copie. Vous répondrez aux questions en anglais et par des phrases complètes. Vous accompagnerez les citations de la mention de la ligne.

I - Compréhension

1. Make a list of the characters present in the scene and give their names and professions whenever possible.
2. Give the names of the characters only mentioned in the text but not actually present.
3. Where exactly are the sisters at the beginning of the scene? (l. 1 to l. 21). Where does the action take place later in the scene? (l. 23 to 50). Justify with one quotation for each answer.
4. Who do the underlined pronouns refer to?
" ... so they are haloed in sketchy fog." (l.11)
"You! I'll stand guard. ." (l.16)
"You! Ill stand guard.." (l.16)
"I don't know her, ..." (l.27)
"Bring her!" He shouts. (l. 34)
"They stare at each other." (l. 44)
5. '... it's a very serious offence, ..." (l. 29). What have the police come for?
6. How did the police discover that Fran was involved in this affair Answer the question and justify with two quotations.
- 7.
8. Why does the narrator hesitate to go and listen to the conversation? Justify with one quotation.
9. Focus on lines 11 to 21. What does this passage reveal about Luca's personality? Include four quotations in your answer.
10. Read again l. 32 ("... my father bangs both his hands ...") to l. 40 ("taking small sips of air through her mouth."). What does the father's behaviour in this scene reveal his relationship with his children?
11. Translate from line 29 ("Erm-it's a very serious offense...") down to line 35 ("in her nightie.")

II - Expression

Les candidats de **série S choisiront de trailer l'UN** des deux sujets au choix (200 mots)

Les candidats de **série L devront obligatoirement traiter les DEUX sujets** (300 mots au total).

1. If you had been in the parents' situation, how would you have dealt with the situation created by the girl?
2. Roy and Tommy Jackson witnessed the crime. Write the conversation between them and the police.