

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

SESSION 2009

**ANGLAIS**

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série L

Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures – Coefficient : 4

*L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.*

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.  
Ce sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées de 1/5 à 5/5.

Compréhension	14 points
Expression	
Traduction	6 points

Brenda was an excellent athlete. At five-foot-eleven in her junior year, she was the star of the girls' varsity<sup>1</sup> basketball team and the girls' volleyball team. She had already broken all the school's scoring records. Her picture was almost always in the weekend paper's sports pages. Scouts had come from colleges to watch her play. There was talk that she might have an opportunity to play for the United States volleyball team in the Olympics. Other fathers attended the games and sat watching with proud smiles on their faces. About the time Daddy became our own Mr. Hyde, he stopped going altogether and then started to ridicule Brenda by telling her things like, "You're not going to be a professional athlete. Why waste your time?" He told her he thought her grades could be higher, even though she ran a good B+ average with all her extracurricular activities.

"If you didn't waste your time with all these games, you'd have As instead," he said. "It's about time you got serious about your life and stopped all this childish nonsense."

He had never called it that, had never tried to discourage her from participating.

When he spoke to her like this, Brenda's eyes would become glassy with tears, but she would not cry or respond. Sometimes, she could be harder than he was, and she would stand there as still and as cold as a petrified tree while he rained his lectures and complaints down around her. She looked as if she had turned off her ears and turned her eyes completely around. I cowered in the corner or ran up to my room, crying as much for her as I did for myself and Mama.

Because of all this, our family dinners turned into silent movies. The tinkle of glasses, dishes, and silverware was like thunder. Brenda wouldn't talk about her games anymore, and Mama was afraid to bring up any subject because Daddy would either be sarcastic or complain. He would sit there scowling or rubbing his temples. If Mama asked him what was wrong, he would just grunt and say, "Nothing, nothing. Don't start nagging me."

I kept my eyes down. I was afraid to breathe too loudly.

After dinner, Daddy often retreated as quickly as he could to his law office, claiming he had work he had to finish, and on weekdays he was gone before any of us had gotten up for breakfast. He never used to do that. Mornings were a happy time for us once. We greeted one another as though we had been apart for weeks. Soon there were days when he didn't come home at night at all, claiming he had to make trips to service clients or deal with business matters. It seemed he would find any excuse he could to avoid being with us, and when he had to be with us, he was there only the minimum amount of time possible. Although Mama was ashamed to tell us, there were nights when he didn't come to bed. Instead, he claimed he had fallen asleep in his office on the sofa.

At first, Mama thought that he had found a lover and he wanted to get rid of us. She theorized that in his eyes, we had become a burden, dragging him down into waters that aged and weakened him. She was sure he blamed us for every gray hair, every wrinkle, every new ache.

"Men go through their own sort of change of life," she rationalized. "It actually terrifies them. He'll get over it," she said. It sounded more like a prayer she wasn't getting answered, because neither Brenda nor I saw any signs of his getting over it. On the contrary, he was getting worse.

[...] Eventually, we found out why Daddy had turned into Mr. Hyde. The revelation was a bright flash that lit up all our dark confusion. It was like lightning

50 piercing the walls of our home and making the air sizzle around us. All of our lives  
were caught in mid-sentence. Our hearts tightened like fists in our chests. Even our  
tears were caught unaware and too far down, buried under layers of anger and  
disappointment, to come quickly enough to the surface. I thought the whole world  
had stopped in surprise and shock. Everything I had thought real turned out to be  
illusion, and everything I thought was just an illusion turned out to be real.

55 The hardest thing for us to learn and accept was that Daddy had done all he  
had done, said all the nasty things he had said, avoided us as much as he had  
avoided us because he loved us so much. To love someone so much that you would  
rather hurt them now than have them unhappy forever is a love so powerful it is  
beyond understanding.

60 Mama felt betrayed because he hadn't told her, Brenda hated herself for the  
things she had done and said to him, and I wondered what the difference really was  
between love and hate.

It took me a long time to find out, and I'm still not totally sure I know.

Adapted from *April Shadows*, by V.C. Andrews, (Pocket, September 13, 2005).

<sup>1</sup> varsity (U.S.) = school sport

## COMPRÉHENSION

Vous traiterez les questions dans l'ordre, en indiquant clairement leur numéro sur votre copie. Vous veillerez à :

- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne,
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il vous est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

### PART 1 (Whole text)

1. How many characters are there? Name them.
2. Who is the narrator? How is this person related to the others? Justify with elements from the text. (at least 2 elements)

### PART 2 (from l.1 to l.14)

3. Is Brenda in high school or at college? Justify by quoting from the text.
4. What is Brenda like at sport? Answer in your own words and pick out five quotations to illustrate your answer.
5. What did Brenda's father reproach her with? What do you learn about his opinion about sport? Explain in your own words, and justify by quoting from the text. (at least 50 words)

### PART 3 (from l.15 to l.28)

6. Compare and contrast Brenda's and the narrator's reactions to the father's criticism. Say it in your own words.(30 words)
7. 'Our family dinners turned into silent movies.' (l.22) Explain this statement in your own words.

### PART 4 (from l.29 to the end)

8. Read from l.29 down to l.38. Say whether the following statements are RIGHT or WRONG and justify by quoting from the text.
  - a) In the past, they didn't use to see one another for long periods of time.
  - b) The father was absent every night.
  - c) He sometimes spent the night on the sofa in his office in town.
9. Can you explain in your own words the link between the father and Mr Hyde? (70 words)

### PART 5 (from l.22 to the end of the text)

10. What changes in attitude does the mother go through as far as the father's change in behaviour is concerned? Describe these stages in your own words. (at least 50 words)

## EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez sous forme d'un essai en anglais les deux sujets suivants :

1. Imagine the reasons for the father's change in behaviour. (150 words)
2. Should we always tell the truth at the risk of hurting others? Discuss. (150 words)

## TRANSLATION

Translate into French the passage from l.52 '**I thought the whole world ...**' down to l.62 '**... between love and hate**'.