



North London Collegiate Junior School

7+ Examination

Sample Story and Comprehension Papers

Name

Date

Catherine's Doll

For Catherine's seventh birthday, her grandmother gave her a baby doll. It looked almost exactly like a real baby, with chubby cheeks, eyes the colour of the summer sky and a little pink rosebud mouth. As soon as she saw the doll, Catherine fell in love with her. She called her Annabel and played with her all day long, feeding her from a pretend bottle, changing her clothes and rocking her to sleep in the little cradle her parents had given her.

The day after Catherine's birthday, the weather was particularly fine, so her parents decided to take Catherine and her younger brother, Thomas, on a trip to the seaside.

"Can Annabel come too?" Catherine asked her mother.

"No, darling," Mum replied. "That wouldn't be a good idea. You might spill your lunch on her, or she might get sand inside her or the sea water might soak her and then she'd be spoilt."



"But she's only a baby," Catherine said in a **pleading** voice. "I'm her Mummy. I can't leave her alone."

Catherine begged and begged until at last her mother agreed that Annabel could come as long as Catherine took very great care of her.

"I'll hold her all the time," Catherine promised as she **tenderly** wrapped Annabel in a large woollen shawl. In the car, Catherine held Annabel tightly all the time, rocking her in her arms. She wouldn't let Thomas even touch her.

Quite a few families were already at the beach by the time they arrived, but there was still plenty of space, so they found a comfortable spot and settled down.



"Shall we eat our picnic now?" asked Mum.

"Ooh, yes," said Catherine, "I'm starving. I could eat the whole picnic by myself." But Catherine found it difficult to eat her lunch. She could only eat with one hand as she had to hold Annabel tightly. She ate very carefully and slowly to make sure she didn't drop any lunch on Annabel. So while Thomas gobbled sandwich after sandwich and biscuit after biscuit, she only managed one small cheese roll and one chocolate finger. She was still feeling hungry when Thomas **devoured** the last of the biscuits.

After lunch, Dad took out the buckets and spades.

"Shall we make a sandcastle?" he asked.

"Ooh, yes," said Catherine, "the best on the whole beach."

Dad and Thomas and Catherine each took a spade and they began to dig. But Catherine found it difficult to dig. She could only use one hand, as she had to hold Annabel tightly and didn't want sand to get inside her. So after a while she stopped and watched as Dad and Thomas built a magnificent sandcastle with four tall **turrets**, a door made out of the empty biscuit packet and a moat all around. They took ages over it and Catherine grew very bored watching them. When the sandcastle was finished they all agreed it was the best sandcastle on the whole beach. But Catherine wasn't interested in it any more.

"Shall we go and paddle in the sea now?" Dad asked. "The water will be lovely and cool on our feet."

"Ooh, yes," said Catherine. "I could paddle in the sea all afternoon."

So, holding Annabel in her arms, Catherine went to the water's edge with Mum, Dad and Thomas. Catherine had never seen the sea look so beautiful. The sun sparkled on the deep blue water and the little waves rolled and foamed and **scurried** up the sand.

"Play with us. Play with us," they seemed to say.

Dad rolled up his trousers, Mum tucked up her skirt and they both ran into the water with Thomas, throwing up big splashes. Catherine jumped back in alarm. She was still holding Annabel tightly and she didn't want her to get soaked in sea water. She stood on the hot, dry sand and watched **wistfully** as Mum, Dad and Thomas danced and skipped and jumped over the waves. It looked such fun, Catherine thought, wishing and wishing she could join in. Mum, Dad and Thomas obviously thought so too. They played in the sea till it was time to pack up and go home.

Catherine was very quiet in the car on the way home, and though she still held Annabel tightly, she didn't rock her even once.

The next day, the weather was still very fine.

"Shall we go to the park?" asked Mum. "You can bring Annabel. You looked after her so well yesterday."

Catherine looked at her mother and shook her head.

"No," she said, firmly. "She'll be all right at home. After all, she's only a doll."



1. Choose one answer to finish each sentence.

(PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE **ONE** CORRECT ANSWER IN EACH LINE)

How old was Catherine?	<i>six</i>	<i>seven</i>	<i>eight</i>
For her birthday, what did Catherine's parents give her?	<i>a rosebud</i>	<i>a doll</i>	<i>a cradle</i>
What was Catherine's doll called?	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Catherine</i>	<i>Annabel</i>
What colour were Annabel's eyes?	<i>blue</i>	<i>brown</i>	<i>green</i>

2. How did Catherine feel when she first got her grandmother's present?

(DRAW A CIRCLE AROUND THE ONE CORRECT ANSWER)

<i>disappointed</i>	<i>delighted</i>
<i>upset</i>	<i>puzzled</i>

3. Name four different things that Catherine did with her doll on her birthday.

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

4. What reasons did Mum give Catherine for not taking Annabel to the beach?

(PUT A CIRCLE AROUND ALL OF THE CORRECT ANSWERS)

She might get wet.
She might get lost.
She might get food spilled on her.
She might get spoilt by the sand.
She might get stolen.

5. Here are some things you might say about the story. Some are right, some are wrong and for some you can't tell.

(TICK THE BOX THAT YOU THINK IS CORRECT)

	Right	Wrong	Can't tell
The day after Catherine's birthday was a sunny day.			
The family went to the beach by car.			
The beach had no people on it when the family arrived.			
Dad drove the car.			

6. Read the sentences below then number them in the correct order in which they appear in the story. Use the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The first one is done for you.

Mum and Dad took Catherine and Thomas to the seaside.	
Dad and Thomas made a sandcastle.	
The family went home.	
They all ate a picnic lunch.	
Catherine was given a doll on her birthday.	1
Mum, Dad and Thomas paddled in the sea.	
Catherine decided to leave Annabel at home.	

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR OWN WORDS USING FULL SENTENCES.

7. What did Catherine eat for lunch?

8. In your own words, describe the sandcastle Dad and Thomas built.

9a. How did Catherine feel about the sandcastle when it was finished?

9b. Why did she feel like this?

10. Why didn't Catherine paddle in the sea?

11a. How did Catherine's feelings about Annabel change from the beginning of the story to the end?

11b. Why did they change? Explain your answer fully.

12. Below are some words from the story. For each of them, choose the word from the WORD BOX that has the *same meaning* and write it on the line. The first one has been done for you.

Pleading means begging .

Devoured means _____ .

Tenderly means _____ .

Scurried means _____ .

Wistfully means _____ .

Turrets means _____ .

Awkward means _____ .

WORD BOX			
gently	difficult	ate	begging
ran	towers		sadly

Story Writing

We ask the girls to write in a variety of styles. Their stories should be well-structured with a beginning, middle and an end. This applies to all styles of writing. The use of language and vocabulary is important. We are looking for interesting vocabulary, not all of which will be spelt accurately.

Girls will not be penalised for incorrect spelling.

Time allowed for the story is 35 minutes.

We help the girls by giving them instructions like these:

- Continue the story about who or what is standing on the step.
- How did it affect Sarah's birthday? Did something go wrong? If so, how was it sorted out?
- This can be real or imaginary.
- Make good use of your senses
 - Sight
 - Hearing
 - Smell
 - Taste
 - Touch

Sarah’s Birthday Surprise

It was Sarah’s birthday and she had never been so excited. Her grandmother was coming to stay and had promised to bring her a very special surprise present. Sarah waited impatiently all morning and when the doorbell finally rang, she ran to open the door at once. Standing on the step was....

Continue the story here:

Sample