

Paper 1 mini mock: Lost Hearts

Source A: The opening of a short story called 'Lost Hearts' by M.R.James, published in 1904.

1	It was, as far as in September of the year 1811 that a post-chaise ¹ drew up before the door of Aswarby Hall, in the heart of Lincolnshire. The little boy who was the only passenger in the chaise, and who jumped out as soon as it had stopped, looked about him with the keenest curiosity during the short interval that elapsed between the ringing of the bell and the opening of the hall door. He saw a
5	tall, square, red-brick house, built in the reign of Anne; a stone-pillared porch had been added in the purer classical style of 1790; the windows of the house were many, tall and narrow, with small panes and thick white woodwork. A pediment, pierced with a round window, crowned the front. There were wings to right and left, connected by curious glazed galleries, supported by pillars, with the central block. These wings plainly contained the stables and offices of the house. Each was surmounted by
10	an ornamental dome with a gilded vane.

15 An evening light shone on the building, making the window-panes glow like so many fires. Away from the Hall in front stretched a flat park studded with oaks and fringed with firs, which stood out against the sky. The clock in the church-tower, buried in trees on the edge of the park, only its golden weather-cock catching the light, was striking six, and the sound came gently beating down the wind. It was altogether a pleasant impression, though tinged with the sort of melancholy² appropriate to an evening in early autumn, that was conveyed to the mind of the boy who was standing in the porch waiting for the door to open to him.

20	The post-chaise had brought him from Warwickshire, where, some six months before, he had been left an orphan. Now, owing to the generous offer of his elderly cousin, Mr Abney, he had come to live at Aswarby.
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25 That night he had a curious dream. At the end of the passage at the top of the house, in which his bedroom was situated, there was an old disused bathroom. It was kept locked, but the upper half of the door was glazed, and, since the muslin curtains which used to hang there had long been gone, you could look in and see the lead-lined bath affixed to the wall on the right hand, with its head towards the window.

On the night of which I am speaking, Stephen Elliott found himself, as he thought, looking through the glazed door. The moon was shining through the window, and he was gazing at a figure which lay in the bath.

30	His description of what he saw reminds me of what I once beheld myself in the famous vaults of St Michan's Church in Dublin, which possesses the horrid property of preserving corpses from decay for centuries. A figure inexpressibly thin and pathetic, of a dusty leaden colour, enveloped in a shroud-like garment, the thin lips crooked into a faint and dreadful smile, the hands pressed tightly over the region of the heart.
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As he looked upon it, a distant, almost inaudible moan seemed to issue from its lips, and the arms
35 began to stir. The terror of the sight forced Stephen backwards and he awoke to the fact that he was
indeed standing on the cold boarded floor of the passage in the full light of the moon. With a courage
which I do not think can be common among boys of his age, he went to the door of the bathroom to
38 ascertain if the figure of his dreams were really there. It was not, and he went back to bed.

1 – post-chaise: a horse drawn carriage.

2 – melancholy: deep sadness, sorrow.

Questions

Q1 – 4 marks – 5 minutes

Use lines 1-10.

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 Who was the only passenger?

9

9

7

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 What colour was the house?

Red.

☐

Red bricked.

☐

Brown.

☐

[1 mark]

0 1 . 3 What was either side of the house?

Wings.

☐

Stables and offices.

☐

Pillars.

☐

[1 mark]

0 1 . 4 What was on top of the offices?

A roof.

☐

An ornamental dome.

☐

A Gallery.

☐

[1 mark]

Q2– 8 marks – 10 minutes

Using lines 11-17.

How does the writer use language to describe the setting in the evening?

Q3– 8 marks – 10 minutes

Use the whole source.

How does the writer structure the text to create a sense of mystery?

Q4 – 20 marks – 25 minutes

Use lines 21-38.

The writer creates a creepy and atmosphere at this point. He builds the tension and creates a vivid image of the dream.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In your response, you could:

- write your own impressions about the characters
- evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- support your opinions with references to the text.