

# **First Year English**

## **November Assessment**

**Studied novel: 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 1: Short questions on the novel 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman.**

**Circle the correct answer (30 marks):**

11. At what time of year does the novel begin?

Spring

Summer

Autumn

✗

12. Which character asks 'don't you know anything?'

Felix

Dodie

Zelda

✓

13. How were the armbands that the Jewish people wore described by Felix?

White with a blue star

Red with black writing

Green with the initial 'J' on it

✓

14. What is the first word of every chapter in the book?

'

'Once'

'Sometimes'

✓

15. 'Hay stalks are stabbing me through my clothes' is a line said by Felix. Which literary device is used in this sentence?

Metaphor

Alliteration

Personification

28  
30

**Part 2: Read the extracts from Chapter 6 of the novel and answer the questions below.**

**Once**

I walked as fast as I could toward the city to find Mum and Dad, and I didn't let anything stop me.

Not until the fire.

I slow down, staring at the horizon.

The fire is miles away, but I can see the flames clearly as they flicker in the darkness. They must be huge. If that's a pile of burning books, there must be millions.

I stop.

I wipe my glasses and try to see if any Nazis are over there. I can't. It's too far away to see people, let alone armbands.

I can hear trucks or cars, though, and faint shouting voices.

Part of me wants to run away, just in case. Another part of me wants to go closer. Mum and Dad might be there. This might be where all the Jewish book owners have been taken, so the Nazis can burn all their books in one big pile.

I go closer.

I don't want to stay on the road in case I bump into any Nazis who are running late, so I cut across some fields.

One of the fields has cabbages in it. As I get closer to the fire, the cabbages are starting to get warm. Some are starting to smell like they're cooking. But I don't stop to eat any.

I can see what's burning now.

It's not books, it's a house.

I still can't see any people, so I stuff the bread and water inside my shirt and take my hat off and pee on it and put it back on to keep my head from blistering and go even closer in case there are some people inside who need to be rescued. I wrote a story once about Mum and Dad rescuing an ink salesman from a burning house, so I know a bit about it.

Blinking from the heat and the glare, I reach the wire fence that separates the house from the fields. The wire is too hot to touch. I wriggle under it.

The lawn is covered with dead chickens. Poor things, they must be cooked. That's what I think until I see the holes in them.

They've been shot.

The owners must have done it to put them out of their misery.

Then I see the owners.

Oh.

They're lying on the lawn next to the chickens, a man and a woman. The man is in pajamas, and the woman is wearing a nightdress. They're both in the same twisted positions as the chickens and both lying in patches of blood.

I want to run away but I don't. Instead, I pick up a chicken feather and hold it in front of the woman's mouth and nose. It's how you tell if people are dead. I read it in a book once.

The feather doesn't move.

It doesn't move with the man either.

I'm shivering in the heat. I've never seen real dead people before. Real dead people are different from dead people in stories. When you see real dead people you want to cry.

#### Use the 'PIE' method to answer the following questions on the extract (25 marks):

- What event does Felix witness in the opening scene of this chapter?

*At the opening scene of this chapter, Felix witnesses a fire.  
Not until the fire is when Felix sees and acknowledges the fire.* 4

- Describe the scene Felix hears from a distance

*The scene Felix hears from a distance is one with people getting into cars. "I can hear trucks or cars though, and faint shouting voices" is when he hears them.* 4

- How can we tell that Felix still doesn't understand how serious the situation is in this scene? Give one example from the extracts which show this.

34 One example from the extract is "They've been shot, I bet the culprits must have done it to put them out of their misery." Which shows Felix doesn't really understand what happened.

4. What inner conflict does Felix struggle with in this chapter?

4

The inner conflict Felix struggles in this chapter is his fear and his bravery. I want to run away, but I don't fit in perfect example of this.

21  
25

5. This story is told from the perspective of a child. In your opinion, how is this effective when reading the story? Give one example from this extract to back up your point.

5

Felix is less scared of things sometimes, because he doesn't understand. Another part of me wants to go closer. Mum and Dad might be here. It outlines when Felix rushes into a fire just in case his parents were there.

Part 3: Who is your favorite character from the novel 'Once'? Give two reasons for your answer using 'PIE'. (20 marks)

52

Structure-2

I choose Felix as my favorite character for many reasons. The first being I find his background interesting. At the start of the book he is a Jew living in a Catholic orphanage who thinks his parents are still alive. He is a very intriguing protagonist.

Q2 One of the first traits I observed is his bravery. An example of this is "Wait I yell, the torture squad turn and look at me." This shows Felix's bravery because even when somebody he doesn't know very well, Tomkiel, is being bullied, he still stands up and helps.

Ex The second and probably most important trait of the book is his creativity. This is shown throughout the book. Here's my favourite example: "A horse crushed his parents, I say. Now the new kid is staring at me too. I grip my notebook and let my imagination take over." This shows that not only is Felix creative, but he knows he's creative and can rely on it.

I've cancelled these marks as the question asked for two reasons - you gave <sup>4</sup> three so I marked your highest scoring reasons!

R2

The last trait is an important one as well. It's his thoughtfulness. It shows that Felix is ready to give up many things so that others can have them. Here's an example: "I eat some potato stew on each plate. I leave a bit in case the people are hungry when they get back." This shows his thoughtfulness because he thought of the people that lived in the house and didn't eat all their food even though he was starving.

E1

Q2

E1

In conclusion, I like Felix because of his thoughtfulness, his creativity and his bravery. These are all traits I admire in people. You may have noticed I only used quotes from the beginning of the book. I did this because Felix changed and grew less naive. I preferred Felix before he was exposed to such horrible things and think that a child shouldn't have to experience that. Thank you for reading!

E1

17  
20

Super  
answers,  
well done!

Part 4: Imagine you are Felix, the main character from the novel 'Once'. Write a diary entry describing three main events which happen to you in the novel, including your thoughts and feelings on them. (25 marks)

Structure-2

28/11/1942 The City

28<sup>th</sup> November 1942

Dear Diary,

I am ~~writing~~ starting this diary because so much has happened recently. I have to write it down before it disappears from my head.

Q1

My story really started with the carrot. I lived in an orphanage with loads of kids, mums and even a priest! In the orphanage there were a lot of people who needed food, so one day, when I got ~~for~~ a whole carrot in my soup, I thought something big was happening. I thought my parents were coming to get me. They didn't, and when the Nazis came to burn books, I knew I had to tell them and hide the books in our bookshop.

FI

DI

Q2

Q3

I escaped the orphanage and after walking for a long time, I got to my hometown. Something was wrong however, & it was empty! When I went to my house, the Radvyns were living there! I didn't know what to do, so I went to my neighbour, he gave some food and told me to hide. He also said my parents were in the city, so I (went) headed towards the city to find them.

DI

D1

Q1

On my way to the city, I saw a burning house. I peed on my hat and went to it. I found a dead couple and an unconscious little girl. I brought her to the a haystack and told her a story. I felt lost at that point, and I had hoped to find my parents at the fire, but I didn't know her that.

DI

DI

FI

The next morning, a Nazi came to us and made us

This has the potential to be a really good day - just make sure to read the question carefully! We needed more detail about features key methods. There is a lot of detail here. The three asked for: Greek work Dina, house got so much potential.

~~I went up to my house, I was sorry. After all  
I had been looking forward to getting off the bus.  
I had to go home because I had to go to school  
and I had to go to work. I had to go to work  
because I had to pay my bills. I had to pay my  
bills because I had to buy food. I had to buy food  
because I had to eat. I had to eat because I  
had to live. I had to live because I had to  
breath. I had to breath because I had to live.~~

But when we get to the city, Mum and Dad were off to see the new exhibition at the museum. I had to go to the library to do my research for my project. I had to go to the library because there was no internet at home.

11. After the first part, I decided to go back to the city. At that point, I had already been there for three days, so I was ready to go back to the city.