



GCSE

C700U10-1A



A23-C700U10-1A



TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2023 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Component 1
20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Resource Material for use with Section A

SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage below.

This passage is set in America and is about two brothers, Adam and Charles Trask.

1 Adam Trask spent five years in the army doing the things an army uses to keep its men from
going insane – endless polishing of metal and leather, parades and drills. His time as a soldier
was up before he knew it and late in 1890 he left the army in San Francisco. Letters between
Adam and his brother, Charles, who worked on the family farm, had become very rare but
5 Adam wrote to his brother just before he left the army, ‘This time I’m coming home,’ and that
was the last Charles heard of him for over three years.

Adam waited out the winter in the warmth of San Francisco and when the spring came,
he had no money. He started eastward towards home, a journey of 2000 miles, sometimes
walking and sometimes risking a ride under slow-moving goods trains. He learned to beg, not
10 for money but for food. He learned the technique of shaving with broken glass, of judging a
house before knocking to ask for a handout. He learned to avoid hostile police. He was picked
up once for being homeless and the police and prisoners frightened him. He travelled alone
after that and made sure he was shaven and clean. He became an expert at hiding his own
personality so that he attracted neither anger nor jealousy. He took pleasure in his new life.

15 Still a long way from home, he was arrested by the sheriff’s men for being homeless and
put on a road gang. That’s how the roads were built. His sentence was six months but when
he was released he was immediately picked up again for a second six months. The gang
were guarded at work by dogs and men with shotguns and chained by the ankle at night.
He learned that drawing attention to himself – an eye raised to meet an eye – brought harsh
20 punishment so he drew a curtain around himself. He removed expression from his face, light
from his eyes and silenced his speech. He became as invisible as it is possible to be. When
the guards were not afraid of him escaping, they gave him jobs of cleaning the camp, of
handing out food to the prisoners and filling water buckets.

Adam waited until three days before his second release was due. Knowing that he would be
25 arrested again on his release, in the afternoon he went to the river to fill the water buckets but
he filled them with stones and sank them. He then eased himself into the water and swam a
long way downstream. He rested and then swam farther down. He kept moving until at dusk
he found a place with bushes for cover. He did not get out of the water.

Late in the night he heard the dogs go by on both sides of the river.

30 Adam had trained himself not to hurry. Most men were caught bolting so he took five days to
cross the short distance into the nearest town. He took no chances, held back his impatience
with an iron control. He was astonished at himself.

On the edge of town he lay hidden until long after midnight and he entered the town like a
shadow. He crept to the rear of a cheap store and forced a window slowly so the screws of the
35 lock were pulled from the wood. He stole a pair of trousers, a shirt, black shoes, black hat and
a raincoat. He forced himself to make sure nothing looked disturbed before he climbed out of
the window. He had not even looked for the cash drawer. He lowered the window carefully and
slipped from shadow to shadow in the moonlight.

He lay hidden in the day and went in search of food at night. He took turnips and a few
40 windfall apples, nothing that would be missed. He rubbed his shoes and raincoat with sand to
destroy their newness. He waited three days until he got the rain he felt he needed.

The rain started late in the afternoon. Adam huddled under his raincoat, waiting for dark,
and when night fell he walked through the town with his hat pulled down. He made his
way to the station and peered through a rain-blurred window. The station manager was
45 leaning through the ticket window, talking to a friend. It was twenty minutes before the friend
went away. Adam took a deep breath to calm himself and sneaked onto the waiting train,
unobserved.

A week later Adam came walking out from the village near the family farm. His stolen clothes were dirty and wrinkled from having been slept in for a week. Near the house he
50 stopped and listened for his brother. He heard him hammering at something in the barn.

'Charles,' Adam called. The hammering stopped and there was silence then Charles came out quickly and hurried to shake hands with Adam.

'How are you?' asked Charles.

'Fine,' said Adam.

55 'You're thin. Where have you been?'

'Mostly wandering around all over.'

'Plan to stay home now?' asked Charles.

'I guess so.'

60 Charles had looked forward to Adam's return for three years. He had painted the house and the barn and had a woman in to clean the house. She threw out the rotting curtains and made new ones. She dug grease out of the stove that had been there since their mother died. Charles had moved into a shed where his nose would not be attacked by the smell of soap and ammonia.

65 When she finally left the shining house, Charles stayed in the shed. He wanted to keep the house clean for Adam. He grew away from the people of the village. He didn't like them and he had no interest in whether they liked him or not. However, the farm had never been so well run. Charles cleared land, built walls and added land to the farm. For these things he had the respect of his neighbours. A farmer never thinks too badly of a good farmer.

70 For several months, the brothers lived by a routine established by Charles, and he never varied it. The brothers saw too much of each other and not enough of anyone else.

Then one morning, Charles woke on the stroke of four-thirty as usual, lit a candle beside his bed, threw back his blanket and got up. He went to the door, opened it and called, 'Adam, time to get up.'

Adam's voice was muffled. 'Don't you ever take a break?'

75 'You don't have to get up,' Charles snapped. 'But if you're going to farm, you'd better farm.'

Adam replied, 'So we're going to work to buy more land so we can do more work.'

Charles turned angrily, 'You mind your own damn business. Stop picking at me.'

'All right,' said Adam. 'I will. And maybe my business isn't here.'

'That's up to you. Anytime you want out, you go right ahead.'

80 The quarrel was silly but Adam couldn't help it. 'This is my place as much as yours.'

'Then why don't you do some work on it?'

The brothers sat down and Charles buttered a slice of bread, gouged out a knifeful of jam and spread it over the butter. He dug into the butter for a second slice, leaving a slop of jam in the butter.

85 'Damn it, can't you wipe your knife? Look at that butter.'

Charles laid his hands palm down on the table. 'You better get off the place.'

87 Adam got up. 'I'd rather live in a pigsty,' he said, and he walked out of the house.