

Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint

CANDIDATE
NAME

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CENTRE
NUMBER

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CANDIDATE
NUMBER

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ENGLISH

0861/02

Paper 2 Fiction

May 2026

1 hour 10 minutes

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen. Do **not** use correction fluid or tape.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].
- The insert contains the reading text.

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



Section A: Reading

Spend 35 minutes on this section.

Read the **text** in the insert, and answer Questions 1–10.

1 Look at lines 2–8.

(a) How many children are sitting in the oak tree?

..... [1]

(b) Explain why being Caroline's brother is both a blessing and a curse.

.....
..... [2]

2 Look at lines 9–16.

(a) What does the writer's use of punctuation in line 10 tell the reader about the way Caroline speaks the words to Bailey?

..... [1]

(b) Why is it clear that Caroline did not expect the answer her brother gave?

..... [1]

3 Look at lines 17–23.

(a) Why does Bailey start feeling nervous before he hears Caroline's dare?

..... [1]

(b) Caroline thinks she's been very clever with the dare she's thought of for Bailey. Give **two** quotations from the text that tell the reader this.

-
 -
- [2]

4 Look at lines 24–28.

(a) What **two** things does the simile ‘like mountains’ tell the reader about the tents?

-
-

[2]

(b) As well as similes, the writer uses another literary technique.

Look at the second sentence.

What technique does the writer use as well as similes?

..... [1]

(c) Look at the last two sentences.

Bailey is trying to convince himself to do the dare.

How do these sentences show this?

..... [1]

5 Look at lines 29–33.

What is Bailey unsure about?

..... [1]

6 Look at lines 34–40.

(a) Why does the writer introduce a flashback here?
Tick (✓) **one** box.

to describe how Bailey joined the circus

☐

to tell the reader how the circus has changed

☐

to give a link between the circus and the children

☐

to describe Bailey's previous experience of the circus

☐

[1]

(b) How did the Night Circus make the 'too-young' Bailey feel?
Tick (✓) **one** box.

brave

☐

jealous

☐

impatient

☐

fascinated

☐

[1]

7 Look at lines 41–44.

Why does Caroline choose a dare connected with the Night Circus?

..... [1]

8 Look at lines 45–54.

(a) The writer uses short paragraphs to present information.
Why has the writer done this?

..... [1]

(b) In the paragraph after 'It was something to be explored', the writer uses longer sentences.
Why does the writer do this?

..... [1]

(c) What does the last sentence (lines 52–54) and its clauses emphasise about the circus?
Tick (✓) **two** boxes.

the variety of patterns

☐

the never-ending size

☐

the lack of outdoor space

☐

the crowded routes

☐

the range of activities

☐

[2]

9 Look at lines 55–60.

Give a **three-word** phrase that shows Bailey is changing his mind about breaking into the Night Circus.

..... [1]

10 Look at the whole text again.

Do you think that Bailey accepts the dare because he wants to go back to the circus?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

yes

☐

no

☐

Give **two** quotations from the text to support your answer.

Explain in your own words why each quotation supports your answer.

quotation

.....

explanation

.....

quotation

.....

explanation

.....

[4]

Turn over

Section B: Writing

Spend 35 minutes on this section.

- 11** Write a story called *The Night Visit* about someone visiting an event held at night time.

It could be:

- a midnight museum or zoo tour
- a sporting event
- a celebration with fireworks or fair rides
- your own choice.

You could think about:

- who you are going with
- what you see
- what happens.

Use the space in the box below to plan your answer.

Do **not** use the space for your answer. You **must** write your answer on the answer lines on the next pages.

Space for your plan:

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