

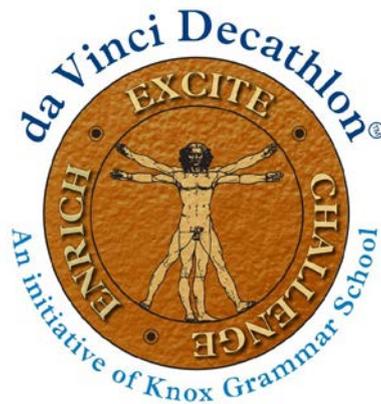


KNOX
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

STATE

DA VINCI DECATHLON 2018

CELEBRATING THE ACADEMIC GIFTS OF STUDENTS
IN YEARS 9, 10 & 11



ENGLISH

TEAM NUMBER _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Rank
/10	/10	/10	/30	/30	/20	/10	/120	

SURPRISING SPELLINGS

ACTIVITY ONE: SPELLING

Ten words will be read out to you. Please write the correct words below.
(TOTAL 10 MARKS)

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

UNEXPECTED CHANGES

ACTIVITY TWO: LITERATURE

The books listed below features villains who change to become likeable characters – by the end, they redeem themselves and we begin to like them. Fill in the missing book, author or unexpected character to complete each line.
(TOTAL 10 MARKS)

Book	Author	Character
<i>Harry Potter books</i>		Severus Snape
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen	
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>		Ebenezer Scrooge
<i>How the Grinch stole Christmas</i>	Dr Seuss	

	William Shakespeare	Edmund
<i>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i>		Edmund
	Ian McEwan	Briony Tallis
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	
	Charlotte Bronte	Mr Rochester
	Gregory Maguire	Elphaba

UNEXPECTED ENDINGS

ACTIVITY THREE: LITERATURE

The books listed below feature unexpected endings. Fill in the missing title or author to complete each line.

(TOTAL 10 MARKS)

Title	Author	Characters
<i>Handmaid's Tale</i>		Offred
	Elie Wiesel	Eliezer
	Lois Lowry	Jonas
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>		Hercule Poirot
<i>The Messenger</i>		Ed Kennedy
	Paula Hawkins	Rachel
<i>Letters from Inside</i>		Tracey
	Gillian Flynn	Nick Dunne
	Yann Martel	Pi
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>		Lennie Small

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

ACTIVITY FOUR: ANALYSING LITERATURE

Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

(TOTAL: 30 MARKS)



Remember, I am not recording the vision of a madman. The sun does not more certainly shine in the heavens than that which I now affirm is true. Some miracle might have produced it, yet the stages of the discovery were distinct and probable. After days and nights of incredible labour and fatigue, I succeeded in discovering the cause of generation and life; nay, more, I became myself capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter.

The astonishment which I had at first experienced on this discovery soon gave place to delight and rapture. After so much time spent in painful labour, to arrive at once at the summit of my desires was the most gratifying consummation of my toils. But this discovery was so great and overwhelming that all the steps by which I had been progressively led to it were obliterated, and I beheld only the result. What had been the study and desire of the wisest men since the creation of the world was now within my grasp. Not that, like a magic scene, it all opened upon me at once: the information I had obtained was of a nature rather to direct my endeavours so soon as I should point them towards the object of my search than to exhibit that object already accomplished. I was like the Arabian who had been buried with the dead and found a passage to life, aided only by one glimmering and seemingly ineffectual light.

I see by your eagerness and the wonder and hope which your eyes express, my friend, that you expect to be informed of the secret with which I am acquainted; that cannot be; listen patiently until the end of my story, and you will easily perceive why I am reserved upon that subject. I will not lead you on, unguarded and ardent as I then was, to your destruction and infallible misery. Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge and how much happier that man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow.

When I found so astonishing a power placed within my hands, I hesitated a long time concerning the manner in which I should employ it. Although I possessed the capacity of bestowing animation, yet to prepare a frame for the reception of it, with all its intricacies of fibres, muscles, and veins, still remained a work of inconceivable difficulty and labour. I doubted at first whether I should attempt the creation of a being like myself, or one of simpler organization; but my imagination was too much exalted by my first success to permit me to doubt of my ability to give life to an animal as complex and wonderful as man. The materials at present within my command hardly appeared adequate to so arduous an undertaking, but I doubted not that I should ultimately succeed. I prepared myself for a multitude of reverses; my operations might be incessantly baffled, and at last my work be imperfect, yet when I considered the improvement which every day takes place in science and mechanics, I was encouraged to hope my present attempts would at least lay the foundations of future success. Nor could I consider the magnitude and complexity of my plan as any argument of its impracticability. It was with these feelings that I began the creation of a human being. As the minuteness of the parts formed a great hindrance to my speed, I resolved, contrary to my first intention, to make the being of a gigantic stature, that is to say, about eight feet in height, and proportionably large. After having formed this determination and having spent some months in successfully collecting and arranging my materials, I began.

No one can conceive the variety of feelings which bore me onwards, like a hurricane, in the first enthusiasm of success. Life and death appeared to me ideal bounds, which I should first break through, and pour a torrent of light into our dark world. A new species would bless me as its creator and source; many happy and excellent natures would owe their being to me. No father could claim the gratitude of his child so completely as I should deserve theirs. Pursuing these reflections, I thought that if I could bestow animation upon lifeless matter, I might in process of time (although I now found it impossible) renew life where death had apparently devoted the body to corruption.

1. Quotations

Select which major theme is best represented by each quotation. You are able to select from the themes listed below. (Subtotal: 8 marks)

Quotes	Themes
'After days and nights of incredible labour and fatigue, I succeeded in discovering the cause of generation and life; nay, more, I became myself capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter.'	
'But this discovery was so great and overwhelming that all the steps by which I had been progressively led to it were obliterated, and I beheld only the result.'	
'I see by your eagerness and the wonder and hope which your eyes express, my friend, that you expect to be informed of the secret with which I am acquainted; that cannot be; listen patiently until the end of my story, and you will easily perceive why I am reserved upon that subject.'	
'I prepared myself for a multitude of reverses; my operations might be incessantly baffled, and at last my work be imperfect, yet when I considered the improvement which every day takes place in science and mechanics, I was encouraged to hope my present attempts would at least lay the foundations of future success.'	
'As the minuteness of the parts formed a great hindrance to my speed, I resolved, contrary to my first intention, to make the being of a gigantic stature, that is to say, about eight feet in height, and proportionably large.'	
'Life and death appeared to me ideal bounds, which I should first break through, and pour a torrent of light into our dark world.'	
'Pursuing these reflections, I thought that if I could bestow animation upon lifeless matter, I might in process of time (although I now found it impossible) renew life where death had apparently devoted the body to corruption.'	
'I doubted at first whether I should attempt the creation of a being like myself, or one of simpler organization; but my imagination was too much exalted by my first success to permit me to doubt of my ability to give life to an animal as complex and wonderful as man.'	
Themes	
Success often overlooks effort	Courage to try new things
Seek beyond which is possible	Ego and pride
	The scars of others should teach us caution
	Patience is a virtue
	Success breeds success
	Resilience

2. Comprehension: Multiple Choice
(Subtotal: 8 marks)

1. Who had the man learnt from?
 - a) His father
 - b) Surgeons
 - c) The wisest men
 - d) Scientists

2. What does he represent when he says, 'capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter'?
 - a) Engineer
 - b) God like figure
 - c) Surgeon
 - d) Magician

3. What does he realise cannot be restored?
 - a) life
 - b) power
 - c) death
 - d) faith

4. What is another word for 'bore' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) drove
 - b) discover
 - c) probe
 - d) drill

5. What is another word for 'animation' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) energy
 - b) zest
 - c) action
 - d) life

6. What is another word for 'infallible' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) flawless
 - b) helpful
 - c) faulty
 - d) absolute

7. What is another word for 'ardent' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) hungry
 - b) zealous
 - c) spirited
 - d) doting

8. What is another word for 'rapture' in reference to how it is used in the text?
 - a) relish
 - b) euphoria
 - c) wish
 - d) fury

3. Comprehension: Short answer response (Subtotal: 8 marks)	
Why does Dr. Frankenstein (the speaker) compare his story with the sun?	
What metaphor is used to compare the 'time spent in painful labour'?	
What does the analogy about 'the dead [who] found a passage to life' suggest about his work?	
Why is a man happier who 'believes his native town to be the world'?	
Why does Dr. Frankenstein hesitate when 'power [is] placed within his hands'?	
Why does Dr. Frankenstein not doubt his ability to give life to man?	
How did Dr. Frankenstein solve his problem of not having the right skills for micro-surgery?	
What metaphor is used for his skills in creating life after death?	

UNEXPECTED MEMORIES

ACTIVITY SIX: POETRY ANALYSIS

*Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle Received
from a Friend Called Felicity* by John Tobias
(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle Received from a Friend Called Felicity by John Tobias

During that summer
When unicorns were still possible;
When the purpose of knees
Was to be skinned;
When shiny horse chestnuts
 (Hollowed out
 Fitted with straws
 Crammed with tobacco
 Stolen from butts
 In family ashtrays)
Were puffed in green lizard silence
While straddling thick branches
Far above and away
From the softening effects
Of civilization;

During that summer--
Which may never have been at all;
But which has become more real
Than the one that was--
Watermelons ruled.

Thick imperial slices
Melting frigidly on sun-parched tongues
Dribbling from chins;
Leaving the best part,
The black bullet seeds,
To be spit out in rapid fire
Against the wall
Against the wind
Against each other;

And when the ammunition was spent,
There was always another bite:
It was a summer of limitless bites,
Of hungers quickly felt
And quickly forgotten
With the next careless gorging.

The bites are fewer now.
Each one is savoured lingeringly,
Swallowed reluctantly.

But in a jar put up by Felicity,
The summer which maybe never was
Has been captured and preserved.
And when we unscrew the lid
And slice off a piece
And let it linger on our tongue:
Unicorns become possible again.

1. Find a word – Give the definition

Identify 4 words in the poem that meet the definitions provided
(Subtotal: 4 marks- 1 mark each)

Word	Definition
	taste (good food or drink) and enjoy it to the full
	majestic or magnificent
	intensely cold
	deprived of natural moisture

2. Vocabulary

Find the synonym in the poem for the words below.
(Subtotal: 4 marks- ½ mark each)

Word from poem	Synonym
	groove
	drape
	withered
	conserve
	leisurely
	projectile
	boundless
	hesitantly

3. Poetic Devices

Identify eight examples of poetic devices used in the poem. Provide the name of each and an example from the poem.

(Subtotal: 4 marks - ½ mark each)

Poetry Device	Poem Example
alliteration	
juxtaposition	
enjambment	
hyperbole	
symbolism	
imagery	
repetition	
connotation of innocence	

4. Analysis: Short Answer

Respond to the question in one or two sentences. You must also provide an example from the poem to support your response

(Subtotal: 8 marks - 2 marks per response)

Question	Answer
How does the poem explore the nature of memory?	
What link is made between childhood and war-like games?	
What is the turning point in the poem?	
What is the theme of the poem?	

PUZZLING PICTOGRAM

ACTIVITY SEVEN: VISUAL LITERACY

Rebus Puzzles

(TOTAL: 10 MARKS)

1. Literature Titles and Authors

Rebus puzzles are basically little pictures, often made with letters and words, which cryptically represent a word, phrase, or saying.

Examine the rebus puzzles below and name the title of the novel and the author.

(Subtotal: 10 marks – 1 mark per title, 1 mark per author)

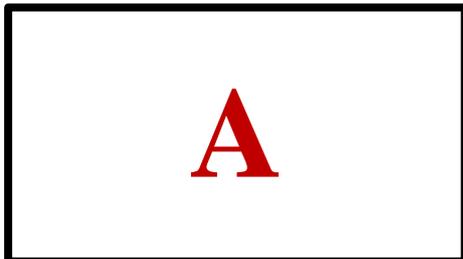
Puzzle 1



Title of text:

Author of text:

Puzzle 2



Title of text:

Author of text:

Puzzle 3



Title of text:

Author of text:

Puzzle 4



Title of text:

Author of text:

Puzzle 5



Title of text:

Author of text: