

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI, CERCETĂRII ȘI TINERETULUI
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
FAZA PE JUDEȚ / MUNICIPIUL BUCUREȘTI, 16 MARTIE 2008
Clasa a XI-a

Subject 1 (100 points)

Read *The Unicorn in the Garden* by James Thurber and write a 400-word essay in which you:

- explain the symbolism you see in the text;
- discuss the characters, the way they are presented and contrasted / the values they seem to hold;
- explain the expression 'a gloat in her eye'.

You may refer to the above in the order you think fit.

Once upon a sunny morning a man who sat in a breakfast nook looked from his scrambled eggs to see a white unicorn with a gold horn quietly cropping the roses in the garden. The man went up to the bedroom where his wife was still asleep and woke her. 'There's a unicorn in the garden,' he said. 'Eating roses.' She opened one unfriendly eye and looked and looked at him. 'The unicorn is a mythical beast,' she said, and turned her back on him. The man walked slowly downstairs and out into the garden. The unicorn was still there; he was now browsing among the tulips. 'Here, unicorn,' said the man, and he pulled up a lily and gave it to him. The unicorn ate it gravely. With a high heart, because there was a unicorn in his garden, the man went upstairs and roused his wife again. 'The unicorn,' he said, 'ate a lily.' His wife sat up in bed and looked at him, coldly. 'You are a booby,' she said, 'and I am going to have you put in the booby hatch'. The man who had never liked the words 'booby' and 'booby-hatch' and who liked them even less on a shining morning when there was a unicorn in the garden, thought for a moment. 'We'll about that,' he said. He walked over to the door. 'He has a golden horn in the middle of his forehead', he told her. Then he went back to the garden to watch the unicorn; but the unicorn had gone away. The man sat down among the roses and went to sleep.

As soon as the husband had gone out of the house, the wife got up and dressed as fast as she could. She was very excited and there was a gloat in her eye. She telephoned the police and she telephoned a psychiatrist; she told them to hurry to her house and bring a straight -jacket. When the police and the psychiatrist arrived they sat down in chairs and looked at her, with great interest. 'My husband,' she said, 'saw a unicorn this morning.' The police looked at the psychiatrist and the psychiatrist looked at the police. 'He told me it ate a lily,' she said. The psychiatrist looked at the police and the police looked at the psychiatrist. 'He told me it had a golden horn in the middle of his forehead,' she said. At a solemn signal from the psychiatrist, the police leaped from their chairs and seized the wife. They had a hard time subduing her, for she put up a terrific struggle, but they finally subdued her. Just as they got her into the straight -jacket, the husband came back into the house.

'Did you tell your wife you saw a unicorn?' asked the police. 'Of course not,' said the husband. 'The unicorn is a mythical beast.' 'That's all I wanted to know,' said the psychiatrist. 'Take her away. I'm sorry, sir, but your wife is as crazy as a jay bird'. So they took her away, cursing and screaming, and shut her up in an institution. The husband lived happily ever after.

Subject 2 (100 points)

Give arguments for and against the saying 'A man's wealth is his enemy' in 400 words.

AMBELE SUBIECTE SUNT OBLIGATORII. TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDA PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.