

Zamani College, Kaduna
Holiday Assignment
SS1 English Language

SECTION A

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

I still remember my first close encounter with our principal known to us as *The Lion of Aye Hill*; he was a most feared human being. The popular saying was that no other lion ever roared on Aye Hill on which the school was situated. So when the senior prefect informed me that the principal wanted to see me, I was particularly terrified. My friends too were concerned for new students were never sent for unless they had committed some serious offence. Indeed some had their dismissal or suspension announced to them in the principal's office without the ritual of investigation and defence.

As I trudged along towards the principal's office, I tried to remember what I had done wrong. In the process, I assured myself that he must have seen me stealing out of the dormitory two days before. I had crept out stealthily early in the evening to see my uncle, who as my only guardian in the town, always had some money for me. I had got some money from him and hurried back just before the 'lights out' bell. It was uneventful and I had assumed that nobody saw me. But now, here I was, sent for!

I knocked feebly and the principal answered from within, 'come in!' I entered on shaky legs and greeted him. He answered without looking up from the paper on which he was writing. Without looking up still he motioned me to sit down. This surprised me for available reports had it that he never allowed students such a luxury. I sat down and waited for the storm to break. For a long time, I waited.

Finally, he finished the task and looked up. 'My boy,' he said, 'what were you doing in town so late in the evening two days ago?' I told him the truth, for I knew the futility of trying to tell a lie. 'I knew', he said calmly, I am aware that you've lost your father and your uncle is all you have in this town. I know that you went to collect some money but in future just come over to me and you'll have all you need. That way, you will not have to break school rules and mar your good records.'

Before I could recover from the shock, he took out some money and put them in my hand. Smiling calmly, he bade me good afternoon. I was speechless and hot tears rolled down my cheeks.

Questions

- a. Why was the boy afraid when he was told that the principal wanted to see him?
- b. What offence had the boy apparently committed?
- c. Why was he surprised when the principal told him to sit down?
- d. Why do you think the principal treated the boy the way he did?
- e. Does your impression of the principal at the end of the passage agree with the impression at the beginning?
 - ii. Mention one point in support of your answer.
- f. ‘... waited for the storm to break’
 - i. What figure of speech is this expression?
 - ii. What is the meaning as it is used in the passage?
- g. Before I could recover from the shock...’
 - i. What is the grammatical name given to this expression?
 - ii. What is its function?
- h. For each of the following, find another word or phrase that means the same and can replace it as used in the passage.
 - i. encounter
 - ii. terrified
 - iii. trudged
 - iv. stealthy
 - v. futility

SECTION B

For each of the following words, write the meaning and part of speech and use it in a sentence.

Redolent, incapable, precluded, rite, confer, rendering, correlation, prevail, officiating, deploy, criterion, reminiscent, clarified, obey, bestow, fabrication, concoct, prevaricate, evasive, perjure.