

## Section A: Reading

Answer ALL questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

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### Source A

*This extract is from the novel, Salem's Lot by Stephen King. In this extract, two brothers are making their way home, but are doing so by going through a forest at night... and they realize they're not alone.*

The woods creaked secretively around them. The whippoorwill had ceased his cry. A branch snapped somewhere behind them, almost stealthily. The daylight was nearly gone from the sky.

'Every now and then,' Danny went on eerily, 'when some ringmeat little kid comes out after dark, it comes flapping out of the trees, the face all putrid and covered with quicksand - '

5 'Danny, come on.'

His little brother's voice held real pleading, and Danny stopped. He had almost scared himself. The trees were dark, bulking presences all around them, moving slowly in the night breeze, rubbing together, creaking in their joints.

Another branch snapped off to their left.

10 Danny suddenly wished they had gone by the road.

Another branch snapped.

'Danny, I'm scared,' Ralphie whispered.

'Don't be stupid,' Danny said. 'Come on.'

15 They started to walk again. Their feet crackled in the pine needles. Danny told himself that he didn't hear any branches snapping. He didn't hear anything except them. Blood thudded in his temples. His hands were cold. Count steps, he told himself. We'll be at Jointner Avenue in two hundred steps. And when we come back we'll go by the road, so ringmeat won't be scared. In just a minute we'll see the streetlights and feel stupid but it will be good to feel stupid so count steps. One . . . two . . . three . . .

*[portion of extract omitted]*

'There ain't no ghosts, you fool. Come on.'

20 Danny held his brother's hand and they began to walk. His legs felt as if they were made up of ten thousand pencil erasers. His knees were trembling. Ralphie was crowding against him, almost forcing him off the path.

'It's watchin' us,' Ralphie whispered.

'Listen, I'm not gonna - '

'No, Danny. Really. Can't you feel it?'

25 Danny stopped. And in the way of children, he did feel something and knew they were no longer alone. A great bush had fallen over the woods; but it was a malefic hush. Shadows, urged by the wind, twisted languorously around them.

And Danny smelled something savage, but not with his nose.

### **Question 1**

Read again lines 1-10. List four things about the setting.

### **Question 2**

Look in detail at lines 1-18 of the extract.

How does the writer use language here to describe the woods as uninviting and dangerous?

### **Question 3**

How has the writer structured the text to interest the reader? [8 marks]

### **Question 4**

A student having read this section of the text said "this scene is terrifying and full of tension. Reading it makes me scared for the two brothers' To what extent do you agree? [20 marks]