

## Epreuve écrite

**Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2007**

**Section: A**

**Branche: ANGLAIS( texte inconnu)**

**Numéro d'ordre du candidat**

\_\_\_\_\_

### **The Field Mouse**

Summer, and the long grass is a snare drum.  
The air hums with jets.  
Down at the end of the meadow,  
far from the radio's terrible news,  
we cut the hay. All afternoon  
its wave breaks before the tractor blade.  
Over the hedge our neighbour travels his field  
in a cloud of lime, drifting our land  
with a chance gift of sweetness.

The child comes running through the killed flowers,  
his hands a nest of quivering mouse,  
its black eyes two sparks burning.  
We know it will die and ought to finish it off.  
It curls in agony big as itself  
and the star goes out in its eye.  
Summer in Europe, the field's hurt,  
and the children kneel in long grass,  
staring at what we have crushed.

Before day's done the field lies bleeding,  
the dusk garden inhabited by the saved, voles,  
frogs, a nest of mice. The wrong that woke  
from a rumour of pain won't heal,  
and we can't face the newspapers.  
All night I dream the children dance in grass  
their bones brittle as mouse-ribs, the air  
stammering with gunfire, my neighbour turned  
stranger, wounding my land with stones.

Gillian Clarke (1998)

**Note :** Gillian Clarke is a contemporary Welsh poet. This poem was inspired by the Bosnian crisis in the late 1990s, when former Yugoslavia broke up into a number of separate states. It is equally relevant to all situations of conflict and war.

**Epreuve écrite**

**Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2007**

**Section: A**

**Branche: ANGLAIS (texte inconnu)**

**Numéro d'ordre du candidat**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Glossary :** snare drum      small flat military kind of drum, Trommel  
lime                      fertilizer  
vole                      small animal of the mouse family, Wühlmaus

**Answer the following questions. Justify your views with evidence from the text.**

1. What image of summer does Gillian Clarke evoke in the first stanza? (10m.)
2. How is the idea of human destructiveness developed in the next two stanzas?  
In how far are children and adults distinguished? (15 m.)
3. Is "The Field Mouse" an appropriate and effective title, in your eyes? (10m.)
4. Analyze some of the stylistic devices used and discuss how Clarke creates specific aspects (10 m.)
5. " and we can't face the newspapers". Is this an appropriate attitude to conflict and war, in your opinion? (15 marks)