

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES CLASSIQUES
Sessions 2023 – QUESTIONNAIRE ÉCRIT

Date :	08.06.23	Durée :	14:15 - 16:45	Numéro candidat :	
Discipline :	Anglais - Analyse littéraire - texte inconnu		Section(s) :	CA / CA-LLCO / CA-MALA / CA-MALF / CA-MAT / CA-PSYA / CA-PSYF	

To My Nine-Year-Old Self

5 You must forgive me. Don't look so surprised,
perplexed, and eager to be gone,
balancing on your hands or on the tightrope.
You would rather run than walk, rather climb than run
rather leap from a height than anything.

10 I have spoiled this body we once shared.
Look at the scars, and watch the way I move,
careful of a bad back or a bruised foot.
Do you remember how, three minutes after waking
we'd jump straight out of the ground floor window
into the summer morning?

15 That dream we had, no doubt it's as fresh in your mind
as the white paper to write it on.
We made a start, but something else came up –
a baby vole, or a bag of sherbet lemons –
and besides, that summer of ambition
created an ice-lolly factory, a wasp trap
and a den by the cesspit.

20 I'd like to say that we could be friends
but the truth is we have nothing in common
beyond a few shared years. I won't keep you then.
Time to pick rosehips for tuppence a pound,
time to hide down scared lanes
from men in cars after girl-children,

25 or to lunge out over the water
on a rope that swings from that tree
long buried in housing –
but no, I shan't cloud your morning. God knows
I have fears enough for us both –

30 I leave you in an ecstasy of concentration
slowly peeling a ripe scab from your knee
to taste it on your tongue.

Helen Dunmore (1952-2017)

British poet, novelist, and short story and children's writer

Glossary:

- l.15** **vole:** field mouse
 sherbet lemon: a hard, lemon-flavoured sweet filled with fizzy sweet powder
- l.18** **cesspit:** a pit for the disposal of liquid waste and sewage
- l.22** **tuppence:** a variant of two-pence
- l.31** **scab:** a crust that forms over wound

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Read all the questions before you start to avoid overlaps.

1. How does the speaker describe her world as a nine-year-old? (12m)
2. What message does the speaker give to her nine-year-old self? (12m)
3. What does the speaker mean by '*I have fears enough for us both*'?(l.29) (12m)
4. How do the stylistic devices used in the poem back up the theme of the passage of time?
(10m)
5. Personal question:

What is a 'good' childhood? (14m)