

## LCM Examinations

# **Passages Guide**

## **for Spoken English Grades 1 to 3**

The following passages are a guide to the level of text to be presented in Section 1 (Performance).

Candidates may choose their own pieces at this level, but may also choose a piece below at their grade level.

This is an initial selection. Further examples will be added in due course.

## Grade 1 Story

L Frank Baum

### How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow

When Dorothy was left alone she began to feel hungry. So she went to the cupboard and cut herself some bread, which she spread with butter. She gave some to Toto, and taking a pail from the shelf she carried it down to the little brook and filled it with clear, sparkling water. Toto ran over to the trees and began to bark at the birds sitting there. Dorothy went to get him, and saw such delicious fruit hanging from the branches that she gathered some of it, finding it just what she wanted to help out her breakfast.

Then she went back to the house, and having helped herself and Toto to a good drink of the cool, clear water, she set about making ready for the journey to the City of Emeralds.

## Grade 1 Poem

Christina Rosetti

### The Wind

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you.  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I.  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by.

### Grade 2 Story

Aesop

#### The Hare and the Tortoise

The Hare was once boasting of his speed to the other animals. "I have never yet been beaten," he said, "when I use my full speed. I challenge any one here to race with me."

The Tortoise said quietly, "I accept your challenge."

"That is a good joke," said the Hare; "I could dance round you all the way."

"Keep your boasting until you've won," replied the Tortoise. "Shall we race?"

The race started. The Hare ran almost out of sight at once, but soon stopped. To show off to the Tortoise, he lay down to have a nap. The Tortoise plodded on and plodded on. When the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise just near the winning-post and could not catch up in time to win the race. Then the Tortoise said:

"Plodding wins the race."

### Grade 2 Article

#### Emperor Penguins

Emperors are the largest of all penguins. These flightless animals live on the Antarctic ice and in the freezing waters.

They huddle together to escape wind and keep warm. Once a penguin has warmed a bit it will move to the edge of the group so that others can enjoy protection from the icy elements.

Emperor penguins spend the long winter on the open ice – and even breed during this harsh season. Females lay a single egg and then promptly leave it behind. They undertake an extended hunting trip that lasts some two months! At sea, emperor penguins can dive to 560 metres – deeper than any other bird – and stay under for more than 20 minutes.

## Grade 2 Poem

Robert Louis Stevenson

### My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow –  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes goes so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

### Grade 3 Story

Lewis Carroll

#### Through the Looking-Glass

In another moment Alice was through the glass, and had jumped lightly down into the Looking-glass room. The very first thing she did was to look whether there was a fire in the fireplace, and she was quite pleased to find that there was a real one, blazing away as brightly as the one she had left behind. 'So I shall be as warm here as I was in the old room,' thought Alice: 'warmer, in fact, because there'll be no one here to scold me away from the fire. Oh, what fun it'll be, when they see me through the glass in here, and can't get at me!'

Then she began looking about, and noticed that what could be seen from the old room was quite common and uninteresting, but that all the rest was a different as possible. For instance, the pictures on the wall next to the fire seemed to be all alive, and the very clock on the chimney-piece (you know you can only see the back of it in the Looking-glass) had got the face of a little old man, and grinned at her.

### Grade 3 Poem

Robert Louis Stevenson

#### From a Railway Carriage

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;  
And charging along like troops in a battle  
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:  
All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
Fly as thick as driving rain;  
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
Painted stations whistle by.  
Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,  
All by himself and gathering brambles;  
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;  
And here is the green for stringing the daisies!  
Here is a cart runaway in the road  
Lumping along with man and load;  
And here is a mill, and there is a river:  
Each a glimpse and gone forever!

## Grade 3 Factual Story

### The Gazelle Boy

An anthropologist was travelling alone across the Spanish Sahara in 1960 when he met some nomads, who told him about a wild child a day's journey away. The next day, he followed the nomads' directions. On the horizon he saw a naked child "galloping in gigantic bounds among a long cavalcade of white gazelles".

It took several more days of sitting and playing his flute to win the animals' confidence. Eventually, the child approached him, showing "his lively, dark, almond-shaped eyes and a pleasant, open expression... he appears to be about 10 years old; his ankles are thick and obviously powerful, his muscles firm".

The boy walked on all fours, but occasionally assumed an upright position. He twitched his muscles, scalp, nose and ears, much like the rest of the herd, in response to the slightest noise. Even in deepest sleep he seemed alert, raising his head at unusual noises.

In 1966 an unsuccessful attempt was made to catch the boy in a net suspended from a helicopter, but the gazelle boy was never removed from his wild companions.