SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL)
GRADE 6

DATE: 20 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 12 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	**GRADE:**

QUESTION ONE:

Welcome to the Dead House by R.L Stine

Josh and I hated our new house. Sure, it was big. It looked like a mansion compared to our old house. It was a tall redbrick house with a sloping black roof and rows of windows framed by black shutters. It's so dark, I thought, studying it from the street. The whole house was covered in darkness, as if it were hiding in the shadows of the gnarled, old trees that bent over it. It was the middle of July, but dead brown leaves blanketed the front yard. Our sneakers crunched over them as we trudged up the gravel driveway. Tall weeds poked up everywhere through the dead leaves. Thick clumps of weeds had completely overgrown an old flower bed beside the front porch. This house is creepy, I thought unhappily. Josh must have been thinking the same thing. Looking up at the old house, we both groaned loudly. Mr. Dawes, the friendly young man from the local real estate office, stopped near the front walk and turned around. "Everything okay?" he asked, staring first at Josh, then at me, with his crinkly blue eyes.

"Josh and Amanda aren't happy about moving," Dad explained, tucking his shirttail in. Dad is a little overweight, and his shirts always seem to be coming untucked. "It's hard for kids," my mother added, smiling at Mr. Dawes, her hands shoved into her jeans pockets as she continued up to the front door. "You know. Leaving all of their friends behind. Moving to a strange new place." "Strange is right," Josh said, shaking his head. "This house is gross." Mr. Dawes chuckled. "It's an old house, that's for sure," he said, patting Josh on the shoulder. "It just needs some work, Josh," Dad said, smiling at Mr. Dawes. "No one has lived in it for a while, so it'll take some fixing up." "Look how big it is," Mom added, smoothing back her straight black hair and smiling at Josh. "We'll have room for a den and maybe a rec room, too. You'd like that—wouldn't you, Amanda?" I shrugged. A cold breeze made me shiver. It was actually a beautiful, hot summer day. But the closer we got to the house, the colder I felt. I guessed it was because of all the tall, old trees. I was wearing white tennis shorts and a sleeveless blue T-shirt. It had been hot in the car. But now I was freezing. Maybe it'll be warmer in the house, I thought.

"How old are they?" Mr. Dawes asked Mom, stepping onto the front porch. "Amanda is twelve," Mom answered. "And Josh turned eleven last month."
"They look so much alike," Mr. Dawes told Mom. I couldn't decide if that was a compliment or not. I guess it's true. Josh and I are both tall and thin and have curly brown hair like Dad's, and dark brown eyes. Everyone says we have "serious" faces. "I really want to go home," Josh said, his voice cracking. "I hate this place." My brother is the most impatient kid in the world. And when he makes up his mind about something, that's it. He's a little spoiled. At least, I think so. Whenever he makes a big fuss about something, he usually gets his way. We may look alike, but we're really not that similar. I'm a lot more patient than Josh is. A lot more sensible. Probably because I'm older and because I'm a girl.

Josh had hold of Dad's hand and was trying to pull him back to the car. "Let's go. Come on, Dad. Let's go." I knew this was one time Josh wouldn't get his way. We were moving to this house. No doubt about it. After all, the house was absolutely free. A great-uncle of Dad's, a man we didn't even know, had died and left the house to Dad in his will.

I'll never forget the look on Dad's face when he got the letter from the lawyer. He let out a loud whoop and began dancing around the living room. Josh and I thought he'd flipped or something. "My Great-Uncle Charles has left us a house in his will," Dad explained, reading and rereading the letter. "It's in a town called Dark Falls." "Huh?" Josh and I cried. "Where's Dark Falls?" Dad shrugged. "I don't remember your Uncle Charles," Mom said, moving behind Dad to read the letter over his shoulder. "Neither do I," admitted Dad. "But he must've been a great guy! Wow! This sounds like an incredible house!" He grabbed Mom's hands and began dancing happily with her across the living room. Dad sure was excited. He'd been looking for an excuse to quit his boring office job and devote all of his time to his writing career. This house - absolutely free - would be just the excuse he needed.

And now, a week later, here we were in Dark Falls, a four-hour drive from our home, seeing our new house for the first time. We hadn't even gone inside, and Josh was trying to drag Dad back to the car. "Let go, Josh," I said quietly, grabbing Josh by the shoulder. "We promised we'd give Dark Falls a chance - remember?" "I already gave it a chance," Josh whined, not letting go of Dad's hand. "This house is old and ugly and I hate it." "You haven't even gone inside," Dad said angrily. "Yes. Let's go in," Mr. Dawes urged, staring at Josh. "I'm staying outside," Josh insisted. He can be really stubborn sometimes. I felt just as unhappy as Josh looking at this dark, old house. But I'd never carry on the way Josh was. "Josh, don't you want to pick out your own room?" Mom asked. "No," Josh muttered. He and I both glanced up to the second floor. There were two large bay windows side by side up there. They looked like two dark eyes staring back at us. "How long have you lived in your present house?" Mr. Dawes asked Dad. Dad had to think for a second. "About fourteen years," he answered. "The kids have lived there for their whole lives."

All of us followed Mr. Dawes, except Josh. Suddenly, from our car at the foot of the driveway, we heard Petey barking and howling and making a fuss. Petey is our dog, a white, curly-haired terrier, cute as a button, and usually well-behaved. He never minded being left in the car. But now he was yowling and yapping at full volume and scratching at the car window, desperate to get out. "Petey—quiet! Quiet!" I shouted. Petey usually listened to me. But not this time. "I'm going to let him out!" Josh declared, and took off down the driveway toward the car. "No. Wait -" Dad called. But I don't think Josh could hear him over Petey's wails. "Might as well let the dog explore," Mr. Dawes said. "It's going to be his house, too." A few seconds later, Petey came charging across the lawn, kicking up brown leaves, yipping excitedly as he ran up to us. He jumped on all of us as if he hadn't seen us in weeks and then, to our surprise, he started growling menacingly and barking at Mr. Dawes. "Petey - stop!" Mom yelled. "He's never done this," Dad said apologetically. "Really. He's usually very friendly."

1. Underline the correct answer from each question below:

1.1 How did Josh and Amanda feel about their new house?

(a) They hated it.
(b) They loved it.
(c) They liked it more than their old house.
(d) They liked it as it was the place where dad grew up.

(1)

1.2 How can the new house be described? Choose all of the options that are correct.

(a) Tall redbrick house.
(b) A well-lit house.
(c) A smaller house.
(d) Sloping black roof.

(2)

1.3 When was the family visiting their new house?

(a) In March
(b) Middle of June
(c) Middle of July
(d) August

(1)

1.4 According to the text, where did Mr Dawes work?

At the real estate office.	As a builder for the house.

(1)

1.5 How old is Josh?

(a) Ten
(b) Eleven
(c) Twelve
(d) Thirteen

(1)

1.6 What did Josh and Amanda NOT have in common?

(a) They were both tall.
(b) They both had curly brown hair.
(c) They were both thin.
(d) They were both impatient. **(1)**

1.7 Why did Amanda think she was more sensible? Choose all the correct answers.

(a) She was older than Josh.
(b) She was younger than Josh.
(c) She was a girl.
(d) Josh was the favourite child.

(2)

1.8 From reading the story, how did dad manage to get the house?

(a) His Great-Uncle Charles left it for him.
(b) His dad, Charles, left it for him.
(c) He won the house.
(d) He bought the house from his Great-Uncle Charles.

(1)

1.9 Why was dad happy to leave his old house and start fresh?

(a) He hated his old job.
(b) He did not want to focus on his career as a writer.
(c) He wanted to start his own company.
(d) The new house was cheaper than the old house.

(1)

1.10 Josh and Amanda will feel comfortable if they make themselves at _____.

(1)

1.11 The idiom, *"On the house,"* means that dad got the house for _____.

(1)

1.12 Petey is cute as a button is an example of a _____.

(a) personification
(b) hyperbole
(c) simile
(d) metaphor **(1)**

1.13 How far away is Dark Falls from the children's old house?

(a) 2 hours away.
(b) 15 minutes away.
(c) 3 hours away.
(d) 4 hours away.

(1)

1.14 How do you know Petey was acting strange?

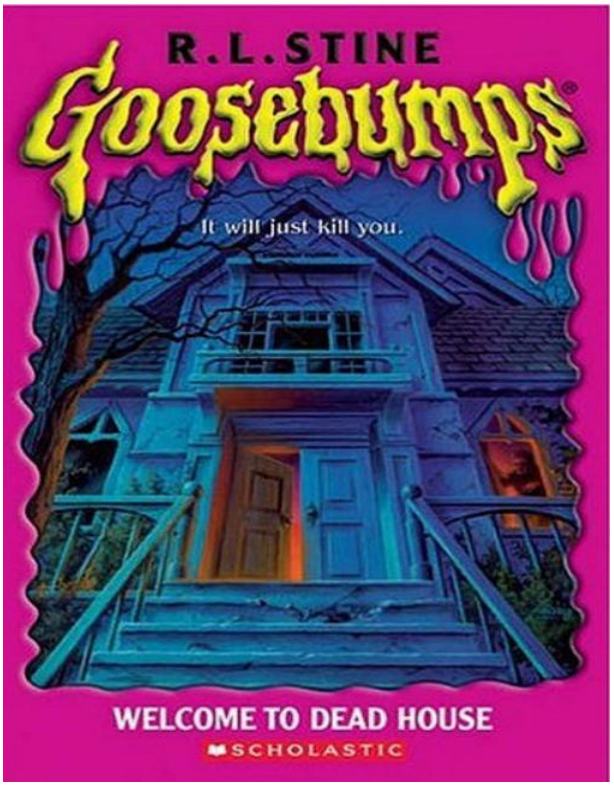
(a) He usually listened to Amanda, but was not listening now.
(b) He barked softer than usual.
(c) He growled menacingly.
(d) He was not acting strange.

(2)

Marks: 17

QUESTION TWO:

2. Look at the book cover below and answer the questions that follow:



2.1 Who is the author of the book, "*Welcome to the Dead House*"? (1)

_____

2.2 In the sentence, "It will just kill you," what does the pronoun "it" refer to? (1)

_____

2.3 What two things can you notice about the Dead House from the picture? (2)

_____

_____

2.4 What is an antonym for, "dead"? (1)

_____

2.5 What is the plural of the word, "house"? (1)

_____

Marks: 6

QUESTION THREE:

3. Fill out the correct form of the words in brackets:

3.1 The doors are (creak) _____more loudly in this house.

3.2 This house is far (old) _____than the last house.

3.3 Dad likes (write) _____ more than working in an office.

3.4 The leaves were (rustle) _____despite it being June.

(4)

Marks: 4

QUESTION FOUR:

4. What two words make up this contracted word:

4.1 they're = _____ + _____

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION FIVE:

5. Join the sentences below with the correct co-ordinating conjunction:

5.1 The children have to move. They would rather stay at their old house.

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION SIX:

6. Punctuate the following sentences:

6.1 stop barking shouted mum

6.2 Amanda felt frightened

(4)

Marks: 4

QUESTION SEVEN:

7. Draw a circle around the correct preposition of your choice.

7.1 Amanda thought about where she would hang her posters (against / by) the wall.

7.2 Josh waited for the family (by / away) from the car. **(2)**

Marks: 2

QUESTION EIGHT:

8. Underline the pronouns in the sentences below:

8.1 Dad's lawyer informed him about the house.

8.2 Mum and Dad both had their own reasons for liking the new house.

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION NINE:

9. Identify the figure of speech in the phrases and sentences below:

9.1 Old trees that bent over it. _____

9.2 Our sneakers crunched over them. _____

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION TEN:

10. Identify the part of speech below:

10.1 house _____

10.2 The _____

10.3 chuckled _____

10.4 apologetically _____

10.5 blue _____

10.6 Dark Falls _____

(6)

Marks: 6

QUESTION ELEVEN:

11. Unscramble the words below that have something to do with the story, *The Dead House.*

11.1 s g h t o s _____

11.2 a h n u e t d _____

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION TWELVE:

Unjumble the word tiles below to reveal the genre of the story, *The Dead House.*

o	r	h	r	o	r

_____

(1)

Marks: 1

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50