SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY ENGLISH (FAL)
FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OLYMPIAD:
GRADE 7

DATE: 20 AUGUST 2026

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 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:

Read the following extract from, "*Be Careful What You Wish For*," by R.L. Stine

Judith Bellwood deliberately tripped me in math class. I saw her white sneaker shoot out into the aisle. Too late. I was carrying my notebook up to the chalkboard to put a problem on the board. My eyes were on the scrawls in my notebook. And before I could stop, I saw the white sneaker shoot out. I tripped over it and went sprawling to the floor, landing hard on my elbows and knees. Of course all the papers flew out of my notebook and scattered everywhere. And the whole class thought it was a riot. Everyone was laughing and cheering as I struggled to pull myself up. Judith and her pal, Anna Frost, laughed hardest of all. I landed on my funny bone, and the pain vibrated up and down my whole body. As I climbed to my feet and then bent to pick up my notebook papers, I knew my face was as red as a tomato.

"Nice move, Sam!" Anna called, a big grin on her face. "Instant replay!" someone else shouted. I glanced up to see a triumphant glow in Judith's green eyes. I'm the tallest girl in my seventh-grade class. No. Correct that. I'm the tallest kid in my seventh-grade class. I'm at least two inches taller than my friend, Cory Blinn, and he's the tallest guy. I'm also the biggest klutz who ever stumbled over the face of the earth. I mean, just because I'm tall and slender doesn't mean I have to be graceful. And believe me, I'm not. But why is it such a riot when I stumble over a wastebasket or drop my tray in the lunchroom or trip over someone's foot in math class?

Judith and Anna are just cruel, that's all. I know they both call me "Stork" behind my back. Cory told me they do. And Judith is always making fun of my name, which is Byrd. Samantha Byrd. "Why don't you fly away, Byrd!" That's what she's always saying to me. Then she and Anna laugh as if that's the funniest joke they've ever heard. "Why don't you fly away, Byrd!" Ha-ha. Big joke. Cory says that Judith is just jealous of me. But that's stupid. I mean, why should Judith be jealous? She's not nine feet tall. She's about five-two, perfect for a twelve year-old. She's graceful. She's athletic. And she's really pretty, with pale, creamy skin, big green eyes, and wavy, copper-coloured hair down to her shoulders. So what's to be jealous about? I think Cory is just trying to make me feel better - and doing a lousy job of it.

Anyway, I gathered all my papers together and shoved them back into the notebook. Sharon asked if I was okay. (Sharon is my teacher. We call all the teachers by their first names here at Montrose Middle School.) I muttered that I was fine, even though my elbow was throbbing like crazy. And I copied the problem onto the board. The chalk squeaked, and everyone groaned and complained. I can't help it. I've never been able to write on the board without squeaking the chalk. It isn't such a big deal - is it? I heard Judith whisper some crack about me to Anna, but I couldn't hear what it was. I glanced up from the problem to see the two of them snickering and smirking at me.

And wouldn't you know it - I couldn't solve the problem. I had something wrong with the equation, and I couldn't figure out what. Sharon stepped up behind me, her skinny arms crossed over her ugly chartreuse sweater. She moved her lips as she read what I had written, trying to see where I had gone wrong. And of course Judith raised her hand and called out, "I see the problem, Sharon. Byrd can't add. Four and two is six, not five." I could feel myself blushing again. Where would I be without Judith to point out my mistakes to the whole class? Everyone was laughing again. Even Sharon thought it was funny. And I had to stand there and take it. Good old Samantha, the class klutz. The class idiot.

My hand was shaking as I erased my stupid mistake and wrote in the right numbers. I was so angry. At Judith. And at myself. But I kept it together as I walked – carefully - back to my seat. I didn't even glance at Judith as I walked past her. I kept it together until Home Ec. class that afternoon. Then it got ugly…

Daphne is our teacher in Home Ec. I like Daphne. She is a big, jolly woman with several chins and a great sense of humour. The rumour is that Daphne always makes us bake cakes and pies and brownies so that she can eat them all after we leave the class. That's kind of mean, I think. But it's probably a little bit true. We have Home Ec. right after lunch, so we're never very hungry. Most of what we make wouldn't make good dog food, anyway. So it mostly gets left in the Home Ec. room. I always look forward to the class. Partly because Daphne is a fun teacher. And partly because it's the one class where there's no homework. The only bad thing about Home Ec. class is that Judith is in it, too. Judith and I had a little run-in in the lunchroom. I sat down at the far end of the table, as far away from her as I could get. But I still heard her telling a couple of eighth-graders, "Byrd tried to fly in math class." Everyone laughed and stared at me.
"You tripped me, Judith!" I shouted angrily. My mouth was full of egg salad, which dribbled down my chin when I shouted. And everyone laughed at me again.

Cory peeked into his lunch bag and made a face. "Again?" I asked, wiping egg salad off the front of my T-shirt with a napkin. "Yeah. Again," he replied glumly. He pulled out the same lunch his father packed for him every single morning. A grilled cheese sandwich and an orange. "Yuck!" "Why does your dad give you grilled cheese every day?" I asked. "Didn't you tell him it gets cold and slimy by lunchtime?" "I told him," Cory groaned, picking up one half of the sandwich in one hand and examining it as if it were some sort of science lab specimen. "He said it's good protein." "How can it be good protein if you throw it in the trash every day?" I asked. Cory grinned his crooked grin. "I didn't tell him that I throw it in the trash every day." He shoved the rubbery sandwich back into the bag and started to peel the orange. "It's a good thing you came by," I said, swallowing the last bite of my egg salad sandwich. "I was about to get up and go murder Judith over there." "Don't murder Judith," Cory advised, still peeling the orange. "You'll get into trouble." I laughed, scornful laughter.

Judith had this odd smile on her face. And as she approached me, she pretended to trip. I swear she only pretended to trip! And she spilled her whole mixing bowl of tapioca onto my shoes. My brand-new blue Doc Martens. “Oops!” she said. That’s all. Just “Oops.” I looked down at my brand-new shoes covered in gloppy yellow pudding. And that’s when I lost it. I uttered an angry roar and went for Judith’s throat. I didn’t plan it or anything. I think it was temporary insanity. I just reached out both hands and grabbed Judith by the throat, and began to strangle her. I mean, they were brand-new shoes! Judith started struggling and tried to scream. She pulled my hair and tried to scratch me. But I held onto her throat and roared some more, like an angry tiger. And Daphne had to pull us apart. She pulled me away by the shoulders, then thrust her wide body between us, blocking our view of each other. I was panting loudly. My chest was heaving up and down. “Samantha! Samantha! What were you doing?” I think that’s what Daphne was screaming. I couldn’t really hear her. I had this roaring in my ears, loud as a waterfall. I think it was just my anger. Before I knew it, I had pushed myself away from the table and was running out of the room. I ran out into the empty hall - and stopped. I didn’t know what to do next. I was so angry. If I had three wishes, I told myself, I know what they would be: Destroy Judith! Destroy Judith! Destroy Judith! Little did I know that I would soon get my wish. All three of them.

Answer the following questions by circling which option you feel is the correct one:

1.1 Where is this story taking place?

(a) At school.
(b) At Judith’s house.
(c) In Samantha’s garage.
(d) At Camp Sunrise. **(1)**

1.2 What did Judith do to Samantha at school that day? Choose all the options that apply.

(a) Trip her in maths class.
(b) Laugh at her for not being able to add.
(c) Spilled tapioca on Samantha's shoes.
(d) Pretended to trip and dropped tapioca on her.

(3)

1.3 Samantha had a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch.

TRUE	FALSE

(1)

1.4 Choose two adjectives that can be used to describe Samantha.

(a) tall
(b) clumsy
(c) rude
(d) short

(2)

1.5 What does Samantha mean when she says, "…I knew my face was as red as a tomato"?

(a) She was angry.
(b) She was embarrassed.
(c) She was hurt.
(d) She was jealous.

(1)

1.6 Cory said that Judith was jealous of Samantha. This means she was _____ with envy.

green	red

(1)

1.7 Choose two assumptions that we can make about Cory from reading the text.

(a) He was a bully.
(b) He didn't like to hurt anyone's feelings.
(c) He stayed away from trouble.
(d) He was ungrateful.

(2)

1.8 What school do Samantha, Cory and Judith attend?

(a) Redrose Academy
(b) Montrose Middle School
(c) Montrose High School
(d) Montrose Girls' School

(1)

1.9 Find a sentence that tells us Samantha was not the neatest writer.

_____

(1)

1.10 Write down the synonym for the word, "victorious" from the text.

_____

(1)

1.11 What was Cory's sandwich compared to in the text?

(a) Dog food
(b) A science lab specimen
(c) An ancient relic
(d) A rare gem

(1)

1.12 How old was Judith?

(a) 10 years old
(b) 2 years older than Samantha
(c) 11 years old
(d) 12 years old

(1)

1.13 Who tried to stop Samantha when she was attacking Judith?

(a) Sharon
(b) Cory
(c) Anna
(d) Daphne

(1)

1.14 What is the point of the brackets used for (Sharon is my teacher. We call all the teachers by their first names here at Montrose Middle School.)?

(a) To provide extra information
(b) To include a quotation
(c) To emphasize the point
(d) To separate two main clauses **(1)**

1.15 How do you know Judith was not going to let Samantha get the upper hand when she was choking her? Choose all the options that apply.

(a) Judith pulled Samantha's hair.
(b) Judith quoted verses from the Bible.
(c) Judith made some dreaded wishes while she was being choked.
(d) Judith scratched Samantha. **(2)**

1.16 What is a synonym for "mistakes"?

(a) Flaws
(b) Flawless
(c) Reckless
(d) Questions

(1)

1.17 What is the figure of speech in the sentence, "Samantha was like an angry tiger"?

(a) Metaphor
(b) Personification
(c) Proverb
(d) Simile

(1)

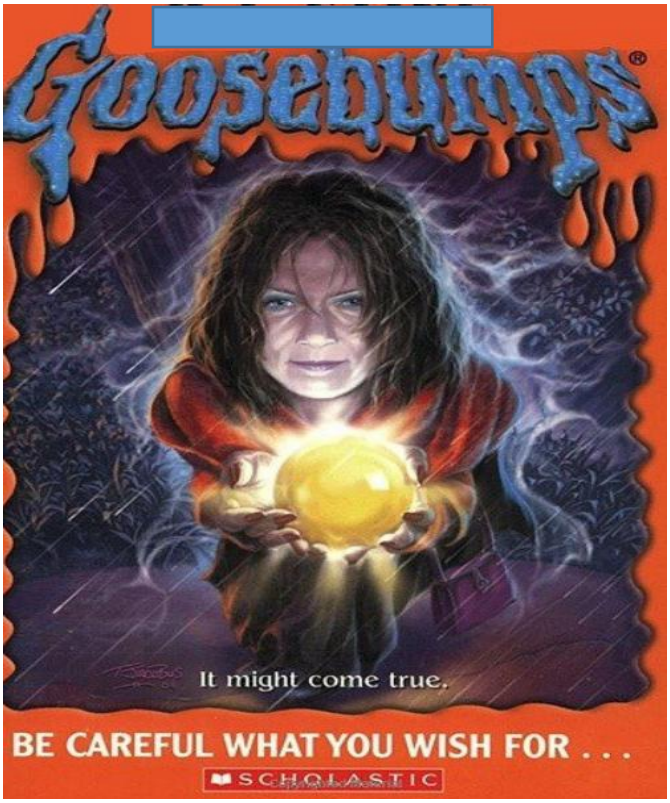
1.18 Where did Samantha run to after her moment of anger?

(a) Home Ec. classroom
(b) An empty hall
(c) An empty classroom
(d) The bathroom **(1)**

Marks: 23

QUESTION TWO:

View the book cover below and answer the questions that follow:



Source
Goosebumps Wiki – "Be Careful What You Wish For..." (2005 reprint), cover art by Tim Jacobus, Scholastic.
https://goosebumps.fandom.com/wiki/Be_Careful_What_You_Wish_For...

2.1 What is the purpose of ellipses dots?

(a) To show the trailing off of thoughts.
(b) To save space.
(c) To build suspense.
(d) To provide extra information.

(1)

2.2 Write down the pronoun in the following:
"Be Careful What You Wish For…"

_____

(1)

2.3 What type of verb is "might"?

_____ **verb** **(1)**

2.4 What is the opposite of "careful"?

_____ **(1)**

2.5 Who is the publisher of Goosebumps books?

_____ **(1)**

2.6 What is the genre of Goosebumps books?

_____ **(1)**

Marks: 6

QUESTION THREE:

Solve the riddles below related to the book.

3.1 What do you call the bone that is supposed to make you laugh and giggle but hurts when you bump it.

_____

(1)

3.2 The person who built it sold it. The person who bought it never used it. The person who used it never saw it. What is it?

_____

(1)

3.3 From the head down to toes, through every living being I flow. Vampires love me but some people might faint when they see me though!
What am I?

_____ **(1)**

Marks: 3

QUESTION FOUR:

4.1 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"**Judith Bellwood <u>deliberately</u> tripped me in math class."**

(a) Verb
(b) Adjective
(c) Adverb
(d) pronoun **(1)**

4.2 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"My hand was <u>shaking</u> as I erased my stupid mistake."

(a) Verb
(b) Adjective
(c) Adverb
(d) Conjunction **(1)**

4.3 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"**Cory Blinn, and he's the <u>tallest</u> guy."**

(a) Verb
(b) Adverb
(c) Adjective
(d) Proper noun **(1)**

4.4 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"I was carrying my <u>notebook</u>."

(a) Verb
(b) Proper noun
(c) Common noun
(d) Adjective **(1)**

4.5 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"<u>Judith Bellwood</u> deliberately tripped me in math class."

(a) Article
(b) Verb
(c) Proper noun
(d) Common noun **(1)**

4.6 What part of speech is the underlined word in the sentence below?

"She pulled me away by <u>the</u> shoulders."

(a) Verb
(b) Proper noun
(c) Common noun
(d) Article

(1)

Marks: 6

<u>QUESTION FIVE:</u>

<u>Join the sentence below with the correct co-ordinating conjunction.</u>

5.1 Judith is a bully. She chooses to be mean always.

_____

(2)
Marks: 2

<u>QUESTION SIX:</u>

Identify the figure of speech below:

6.1 I had this roaring in my ears, loud as a waterfall.

_____

(1)
Marks: 1

QUESTION SEVEN:

Complete the crossword puzzle below using the hints provided below:

Across: →

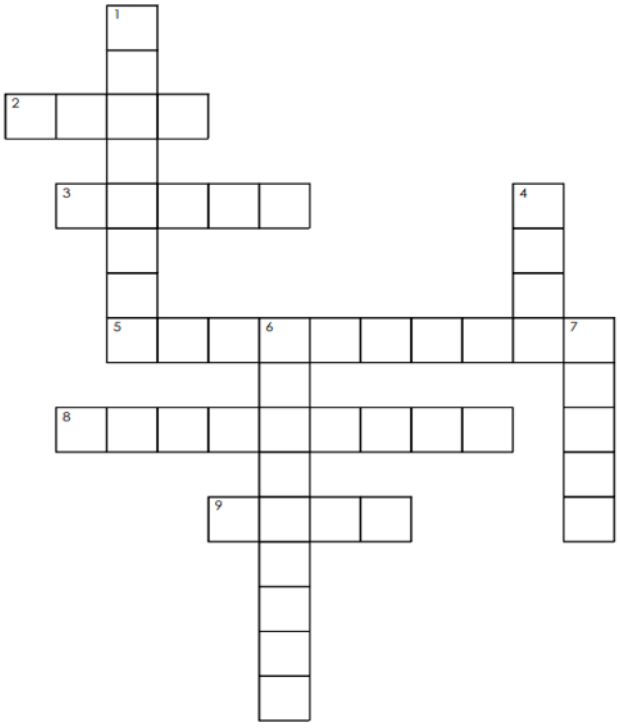
2. Spill your __ is to confess.
3. _____ town is a deserted empty place.
5. Give you __ is a fearful reaction.
8. Working late at night is the _____ shift.
9. To tremble with fear is to shake like a _.

Down: ↓

1. ___ hour is late at night.
4. Dead _____ is an object that is dangerous.
6. _____ in the closet refers to secrets.
7. Something scary sends shivers down your _.

(9)

Horror Idioms Crossword



TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50