



# THE CEDARS SCHOOL

## Entrance Examination ENGLISH

Time allowed: **60 minutes**

This paper consist of a **reading** section and a **writing** section. You are advised to spend around 35 minutes on the reading section and the remainder on the writing.

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Cedars School English Entrance Examination**  
**Time allowed: 60 minutes**

**Section A: Reading**

**Spend about 35 minutes on this section**

**Read the extract below, which is taken from *The Hobbit* (1937) by J R R Tolkien (1892-1973), and answer the questions that follow.**

*After a difficult and dangerous journey, the hobbit Bilbo Baggins and his companions the dwarves arrive at the beautiful valley of Rivendell, which is inhabited by elves.*

*O! Will you be staying,  
Or will you be flying?  
Your ponies are straying!  
The daylight is dying!  
To fly would be folly,  
To stay would be jolly  
And listen and hark  
Till the end of the dark  
To our tune  
ha! ha!*

So they laughed and sang in the trees; and pretty fair nonsense I daresay you think it. Not that they would care; they would only laugh all the more if you told them so. They were elves of course. Soon Bilbo caught glimpses of them as the darkness deepened. He loved elves, though he seldom met them; but he was a little frightened of them too. Dwarves don't get on well with them. Even decent enough dwarves like Thorin and his friends think them foolish (which is a very foolish thing to think), or get annoyed with them. For some elves tease them and laugh at them, and most of all at their beards.

"Well, well!" said a voice. "Just look! Bilbo the hobbit on a pony, my dear! Isn't it delicious!"

"Most astonishing wonderful!"

Then off they went into another song as ridiculous as the one I have written down in full. At last one, a tall young fellow, came out from the trees and bowed to Gandalf and to Thorin.

"Welcome to the valley!" he said.

"Thank you!" said Thorin a bit gruffly; but Gandalf was already off his horse and among the elves, talking merrily with them.

"You are a little out of your way," said the elf, "that is, if you are making for the only path across the water and to the house beyond. We will set you right, but you had best get on foot, until you are over the bridge. Are you going to stay a bit and sing with us, or will you go straight on? Supper is preparing over there," he said. "I can smell the wood-fires for the cooking."

Tired as he was, Bilbo would have liked to stay a while. Elvish singing is not a thing to miss, in June under the stars, not if you care for such things. Also he would have liked to have a few private words with these people that seemed to know his names and all about him, although he had never seen them before. He thought their opinion of his adventure might be interesting. Elves know a lot and are wondrous folk for news, and know what is going on among the peoples of the land, as quick as water flows, or quicker.

But the dwarves were all for supper as soon as possible just then, and would not stay. On they all went, leading their ponies, till they were brought to a good path and so at last to the very brink of the river. It was flowing fast and noisily, as mountain-streams do of a summer evening, when the sun has been all day on the snow far up above. There was only a narrow bridge of stone without a parapet, as narrow as a pony could well walk on; and over that they had to go, slow and careful, one by one, each leading his pony by the bridle. The elves had brought bright lanterns to the shore, and they sang a merry song as the party went across.

“Don’t dip your beard in the foam, father!” they cried to Thorin, who was bent almost on to his hands and knees. “It is long enough without watering it.”

“Mind Bilbo doesn’t eat all the cakes!” they called. “He is too fat to get through key-holes yet!”

“Hush, hush! Good People! and good night!” said Gandalf, who came last. “Valleys have ears, and some elves have over merry tongues. Good night!”

And so at last they all came to the Last Homely House, and found its doors flung wide.

## Questions

1. **Briefly** summarise the key events of this extract. (5)
2. Give **two** reasons why dwarves are not particularly friendly towards elves. (2)
3. Explain **one thing** we learn about Bilbo’s character in this extract. Use **evidence from the text** to support your point, and explain it **in detail**. (3)
4. Tolkien shows that elves know how to enjoy life. Give **three examples** of how he does this, and explain them **in detail**. (10)

Total marks for Section A: 20

## Section B: Writing

**Spend about 25 minutes on this section.**

***Your response will be marked for the accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.***

3. “Young people in today’s world are under too much pressure.”

Write a magazine article, arguing **either for or** against this statement.

Total marks for Section B: 20

Total marks for paper: 40