 This poem is by Sharon Olds.

The Missing Boy

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(for Etan Patz)

Every time we take the bus
 my son sees the picture of the missing boy.
 He looks at it like a mirror – the dark
 straw hair, the pale skin,
 the blue eyes, the electric-blue sneakers with
 slashes of jagged gold. But of course that
 kid is little, only six and a half,
 an age when things can happen to you,
 when you're not really safe, and our son is seven,
 practically fully grown – why, he would
 tower over that kid if they could
 find him and bring him right here on this bus and
 stand them together. He holds to the pole,
 wishing for that, the tape on the poster
 gleaming over his head, beginning to
 melt at the centre and curl at the edges as it
 ages. At night, when I put him to bed,
 my son holds my hand tight
 and says he's sure that kid's all right,
 nothing to worry about, he just
 hopes he's getting the food he likes,
 not just any old food, but the food
 he likes the most, the food he is used to.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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The Missing Boy

- 1 Where did the boy and his mother see the poster?

	2b
1 mark	

- 2 The poet says that her son looks at the picture of the missing boy *like a mirror*. What does she mean? Tick **one**.

The poster is shiny.

Her son looks at the poster for a long time.

The boy in the poster looks like her son.

Her son can see his reflection in the poster.

	2g
1 mark	

- 3 Describe **two** ways in which the poet's son and the missing boy look alike.

1 _____

2 _____

	2b
1 mark	

- 4 a) Do you think the poet believes her seven-year-old son is *practically fully grown*?

b) Why do you think the poet describes her son in this way?

	2d
1 mark	

	2g
1 mark	

	/ 5
Total for this page	

- 5 Tick to show whether the following sentences are **true** or **false**.
The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
The poet's son is a lot older than the missing boy.		✓
The poet's son finds the poster upsetting.		
The poster has been on the bus for a long time.		
The poet's son knows the missing boy.		

2d
2 marks

- 6 Read these lines from the end of the poem.

*At night, when I put him to bed,
my son holds my hand tight
and says he's sure that kid's all right,
nothing to worry about, he just
hopes he's getting the food he likes,
not just any old food, but the food
he likes the most, the food he is used to.*

Underline the phrase that shows that the poet's son **is**, in fact, worried.

2g
1 mark

- 7 Think about the whole poem. Who or what is the poem **mainly** about?
Tick the **best** answer.

- a bus
a boy who has gone missing
a poster
the poet's son

2c
1 mark

- 8 How would you describe this poem? Tick the **best** answer.

- humorous magical
realistic rhyming

2f
1 mark

/ 10
Total for this test



This text is from the first chapter of *Room 13* by Robert Swindells.

Room 13

This is what Fliss dreamed the night before the second year went to Whitby.

She was walking on a road high above the sea. It was dark. She was alone. Waves were breaking at the foot of cliffs to her left, and further out, the moonlight made a silver path on the water.

In front of her was a house. It was a tall house, looming blackly against the sky. There were many windows, all of them dark.

Fliss was afraid. She didn't want to go inside the house. She didn't even want to walk past but she had no control over her feet. They seemed to go by themselves, forcing her on.

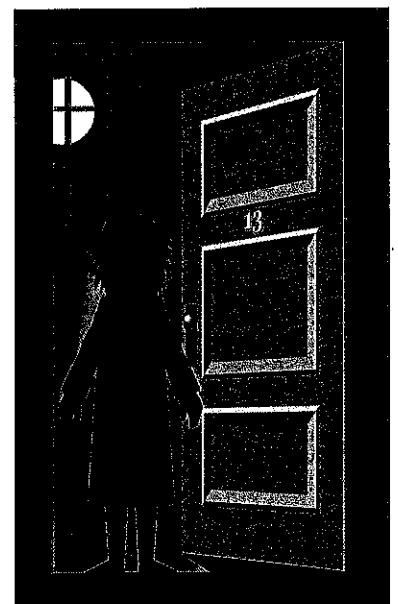
She came to a gate. It was made of iron, worked into curly patterns. Near the top was a bit that was supposed to be a bird in flight - a seagull perhaps - but the gate had been painted black, and the paint had run and hardened into little stalactites along the bird's wings, making it look like a bat.

The gate opened by itself, and as she went through Fliss heard a voice that whispered, 'The Gate of Fate.' She was drawn along a short pathway and up some stone steps to the front door, which also opened by itself. 'The Keep of Sleep,' whispered the voice.

The door closed silently behind her. Moonlight shone coldly through a stained-glass panel into a gloomy hallway. At the far end were stairs that went up into blackness. She didn't want to climb that stairway but her feet drew her along the hallway and up.

She came to a landing with doors. The stairs took a turn and went on up. As Fliss climbed, it grew colder. There was another landing, more doors and another turn in the stair. Upward to a third landing, then a fourth, and then there were no more stairs. She was at the top of the house. There were four doors, each with a number. 10, 11, 12, 13. As she read the numbers, door 13 swung inward with a squeal. 'No!' she whispered, but it was no use. Her feet carried her over the threshold and the voice hissed, 'The Room of Doom.'

In the room was a table. On the table stood a long, pale box. Fliss thought she knew what it was. It filled her with horror, and she whimpered helplessly as her feet drew her towards it. When she was close she saw a shape in the box and there was a smell like damp earth. When she was very close the voice whispered, 'The Bed of Dread,' and then the shape sat up and reached out for her and she screamed. Her screams woke her and she lay damp and trembling in her bed.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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Room 13

1 Which of these words does the writer use to describe Fliss? Tick **two**.

- tall pale dark
 alone afraid

2b
1 mark

2 This passage opens the first chapter of the story. What purpose do you think this passage serves in the story as a whole? Tick the **best** answer.

- to introduce the main characters in the story
 to describe the setting of the story
 to set the mood of the story
 to tell the reader what Fliss is like
 to explain what happened before the story began

2f
1 mark

3 Look at the paragraph beginning: *She came to a landing with doors ...*

How does the writer make this paragraph scary? Write **one** way, explaining how it adds to the scariness.

2g
2 marks

4 Tick to show whether the following sentences about Fliss's dream are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
The house is near the sea.	✓	
The animal depicted on the gate is a bat.		
Fliss pushes open the door to Room 13.		
Fliss is afraid of Room 13 even before she sees what is inside.		

2b
1 mark

/ 5
Total for this page

- 5 Look at the penultimate paragraph (the one before the last) beginning: *She came to...* **Find** and **copy a phrase** that shows that Fliss has no control over what she does.

1 mark 2a

- 6 Look at the last paragraph beginning: *In the room...*
Find and **copy a phrase** that means the same as *covered in sweat and shaking*.

1 mark 2a

- 7 Why does the writer include the whispering voice?

1 mark 2g

- 8 Look again at the last paragraph beginning: *In the room...* What do you think the *long, pale box* is? Explain why you think this, using the text to help you.

2 marks 2d

/ 10
Total for this test