

from the settlement all it could see were the immense bulges and distances of that grey-green forest. There was something about its tangle that seemed to make the eye blind, searching for pattern and finding none. It was exhausting to look at: different everywhere, and yet everywhere the same.

When the hot weather came – confusingly, at Christmas – it was like no hot weather they had ever known. The sun rose up into a sky wan with heat and hung there pouring brassy light down on everything through the whole endless day, a burden on the shoulders, until it slipped behind the mountains to the west. There were no slow twilit evenings. Darkness came down sudden and absolute.

HINT: After you have read the passage, write a one or two sentence summary of what happens to make sure you understand.

Task 2: Questions

Answer in full sentences unless directed to do otherwise. The marks at the end of each question are a guide as to how much you should write. Detailed answers will be rewarded.

HINT: The number of marks for each question can guide you as to how much you should write and how many details to include. For example, question 4 asks you to identify three details and is worth 3 marks. So, you can receive up to 1 mark for each detail you provide.

1. What is the full name of Sal's husband?

(1 mark)

2. Look at the first paragraph. In your own words, explain why Sal is 'astonished'.

HINT: If the question asks us to use our own words, we should not quote from the passage.

(2 marks)

3. In your own words, explain what Sal dislikes about:

a. The lizards

b. The ants

c. The mosquitoes and bedbugs

(3 marks)

4. In your own words, identify three things Sal does to combat pests.

HINT: If the question asks us to identify, it often means 'quote'. However, this question also wants us to use our own words. So, we need to find three things and rephrase them.

(3 marks)

5. What is revealed about the character Thornhill?

HINT: First, find all the information about Thornhill. Next, evaluate what this reveals, or shows the reader, about his character and his thoughts and feelings.

(3 marks)

6. Pathetic fallacy is a literary technique where the weather reflects the action or the emotions of the characters. What is the effect of pathetic fallacy in this passage? Use quotes to support your answer.

HINT: This question provides us with lots of information. It is asking us to explain the effect of pathetic fallacy, so we should first identify using quotes and then explain the impact on the passage and the reader's understanding.

(8 marks)

Extension Task

Consider the way the author describes the harsh landscape of Australia. Choose another harsh landscape and describe it effectively.

File marker

