



BENENDEN

Lower School Entrance Exam 2016

ENGLISH

11+

1 Hour

Name: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

Instructions to Candidates:

- Answer all parts of Question A, and Question B, which is on page 11, spending **30 minutes** on each.
- Total marks for this exam = 100

QUESTION A

Spend 10 minutes reading this carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

Winter Rain

Every valley drinks,
Every dell and hollow:
Where the kind rain sinks and sinks,
Green of Spring will follow.

Yet a lapse of weeks
Buds will burst their edges,
Strip their wool-coats, glue-coats, streaks,
In the woods and hedges;

Weave a bower* of love
For birds to meet each other,
Weave a canopy above
Nest and egg and mother.

But for fattening rain
We should have no flowers,
Never a bud or leaf again
But for soaking showers;

Never a mated bird
In the rocking tree-tops,
Never indeed a flock or herd
To graze upon the lea**-crops.

Lambs so woolly white,
Sheep the sun-bright leas** on,
They could have no grass to bite
But for rain in season.

We should find no moss
In the shadiest places,
Find no waving meadow grass
Pied*** with broad-eyed daisies:

But miles of barren sand,
With never a son or daughter,
Not a lily on the land,
Or lily on the water.

By Christina Rossetti

* A pleasant shady place beneath trees or climbing plants

** An open area of grassy land

*** Two coloured

