



**THE VILLAGE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
"We Nurture Dreams"

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**INTERNAL READING ASSESSMENT-4**  
**DATE OF SUBMISSION:07/11/2023**

## **A Traveller in Time**

Ours was a steep, crooked stair, with a handrail on one side, very narrow, with rooms leading off it so suddenly that it was easy to fall headlong as one stepped from a doorway. We had wallpaper with leaves on it, like a green wood in spring, and I used to sit on the stairs, pretending I was in a forest with birds singing around me. I was sitting there one evening, with my feet tucked under me, in a blue dusk, waiting for the lamplighter to come whistling down the street to bring a gleam to the stairway. There was a street lamp near, and this shone over the door and saved us from using our own gas-lamp.

I was suddenly aware how quiet it was. I might have been the only person in the world. Even the clock stopped ticking, and the mice ceased rustling in the wainscot. I turned my head and saw a lady coming downstairs from the upper floor. She was dressed in a black dress which swept round her like a cloud, and at her neck was a narrow white frill which shone like ivory. Her eyes were very bright and blue as violets. I sprang to my feet and smiled up at her, into the beautiful grave face she bent towards me. She gave an answering smile, and her deep-set eyes seemed to pierce me, and I caught my breath as I stood aside to let her pass. I never heard a footstep; she was there before I was aware.

She went by as I leaned against the wall, and I pressed myself against the paper to leave room for her full floating skirts which took all the stairway. I never felt them touch me, and this gave me a curious sensation. Soundlessly she swayed down the stairway, and I stood watching her, smelling the sweet, faint odour of her dress, seeing the pallor of the hands which held her ruffed skirts, yet hearing nothing at all.

I leaned over the rail to watch her, and suddenly she was gone. The clock ticked loudly, the sounds of the street came to my ears, the lamplighter's whistle, clear and round, fluted through the air, and the bright gleam of the gas danced upon the patterned wall. I ran downstairs and pushed open the door into the sitting room, expecting to see her there. The room was empty, and I went thoughtfully down to the basement where my mother was cooking, and I asked about the lady.

"There is no one, child," she exclaimed. "You've imagined her. It is easy to think you see someone in the dusk with flickering street lights falling on the walls. It was the shadow of somebody in the street perhaps." I was positive I had seen the lady and I described her. Mother was very quiet, as if she were thinking what to say next. Then she changed the conversation, asking me if I would like to make treacle toffee that night.



**INTERNAL READING ASSESSMENT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does the narrator often do on the stairs?  
a) Read books      b) Pretend to be in a forest      c) Listen to music      d) Study for exams
2. What color is the wallpaper described in the passage?  
a) Blue                      b) Red                      c) Green                      d) Yellow
3. What is the narrator doing as the evening approaches?  
a) Waiting for a friend      b) Waiting for the postman      c) Waiting for the lamplighter      d) Waiting for dinner
4. How does the street lamp help in the passage?  
a) It guides people up the stairs                      b) It saves electricity  
c) It lights up the whole street                      d) It provides light for the stairway
5. What sudden realization does the narrator have about the surroundings?  
a) It's too noisy      b) It's eerily quiet      c) It's crowded      d) It's brightly lit
6. What is the color of the lady's dress?  
a) White      b) Blue                      c) Black                      d) Red
7. How does the lady's frill appear?  
a) Shiny like gold      b) Bright like a diamond      c) Dull and plain      d) Shone like ivory

8. What catches the narrator's attention about the lady's eyes?
- a) They were closed                      b) They were bright and blue as violets  
c) They were dull and grey              d) They were hidden behind glasses
9. What feeling does the narrator experience when the lady passes by?
- a) Fear              b) Excitement                      c) Relief                      d) A curious sensation
10. What peculiar experience does the narrator have regarding the lady's skirts?
- a) They brushed against the narrator                      b) They made a rustling sound  
c) They didn't touch the narrator                      d) They had a strong scent
11. What does the narrator smell as the lady passes by?
- a) Lavender      b) Sweet, faint odor of the lady's dress                      c) Smoke                      d) Perfume
12. What does the narrator hear as the lady disappears?
- a) Footsteps              b) The street sounds                      c) The clock ticking              d) All of the above
13. What does the narrator do after the lady vanishes?
- a) Runs downstairs      b) Runs to the kitchen                      c) Searches the sitting room      d) Calls for the lady
14. What explanation does the narrator's mother give for the encounter?
- a) It was a ghost                      b) It was the shadow of somebody in the street  
c) It was a dream                      d) It was an illusion
15. How does the mother respond when the narrator describes the lady?
- a) She agrees with the description                      b) She dismisses it and changes the topic  
c) She encourages the narrator to find the lady                      d) She advises the narrator to forget about it

Name and Signature of the Invigilator with date

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