**Extract 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13 | A voice spoke from behind me. ‘Rise, trespasser,’ it said, ‘and drop your loot.’ For a frozen, empty moment, I stayed still, weighing my chance of escape. Everything around me – every sensation – distilled into sharp focus. The forest, silent with the promise of unfallen snow. Dewdrops that sparkled on dried leaves beneath my feet. My heartbeat pounding in my ears. Could I make a run for it? I was alone, and a good way off the open road, meaning I could potentially lose a pursuer in the dark, dense forest. But making even a single movement might prompt my attacker to drive in their blade. And foolishly, I was unarmed, having stowed my dagger in my boot. No. There was no way to escape this mess. Inwardly, I cursed my poor decision-making and begrudgingly dropped the herbs. As soon as they hit the forest floor, the delicate purple flowers began to wilt, disintegrating into the smattering of frost atop the soil.  ***For No Mortal Creature***, by Keshe Chow |

**Line 1** What does the word ‘trespasser’ mean?

**Line 2** What does the word ‘loot’ mean?

**Line 6**  Why is the speaker ‘uncertain’ that running away is a good idea?

**Line 10** In what sense is the speaker’s situation a ‘mess’?

**Line 11** What word is a synonym for ‘reluctantly’?

**All Lines** Choose two details that make the speaker seem vulnerable

**150 Words** Rewrite the text from a different perspective

**Extract 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 | My name is Alex Cross. I have been a criminal psychologist for the FBI’s Behavioural Science Unit and am currently working – for the second time in my life – as a homicide detective with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police. In my decades of investigative and profiling work, I’ve had to interview many people with vicious and violent minds. The worst of them, the psychopaths and sociopaths, the ones who loved to kill – they all had one thing in common: They lied beautifully. So beautifully that I was always left wondering how much of what they told me was truth and how much was spun out of thin air the way a spider crafts a web on a dewy morning.  ***Return of the Spider***, by James Patterson |

**Lines 2-3** Provide a reason why the speaker provides an additional detail

**Line 5** What does the word ‘vicious’ mean?

**Line 7** What does it mean to ‘lie beautifully’?

**Lines 9-10** Provide a reason why a liar is like a spider spinning a web

**All Lines** Choose two words to describe the speaker

**150 Words** Write the next paragraph

**Extract 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15 | Through the thick, dark-stained timber door I can hear Liza’s laugh. Light and melodic. I know she’s winning him over and for some reason that makes me even more furious. My fists, which always seem to be gripped in two tight balls lately, constrict further and I make a conscious effort to release my fingers and stretch them out, wiping sweaty hands on my skirt. I’m in the Douglas College winter uniform and my damp palms feel gross on the scratchy wool. The blazer is just as bad, so I cross my arms and tuck each palm underneath it against the sides of my torso. I sigh lightly at the relief of the cool, soft cotton of the shirt. It’s almost mid-Autumn, but still too warm for heavy winter fabrics in the day, if you ask me. How on earth did I end up with a little sister like Liza? Me, all sharp insides and soft, round exterior and her, lean and angular outside with the lax and easy disposition. Her, tall and dark, and me, short and fair. It’s almost as though we are opposite in every way. Not almost. We are. So very different.  ***What Have They Done to Liza McLean?***, by Amy Doak |

**Line 3** Explain how being ‘furious’ is different from being ‘cross’

**Lines 3-5** Explain the physical gesture that shows the speaker is ‘furious’

**Line 13** What does the word ‘disposition’ mean?

**Lines 11-12** What does the description ‘all sharp insides’ suggest about the speaker?

**Lines 14-15** Provide one effect of the short sentences

**All Lines** Explain how the speaker and Liza are different

**150 Words** Write a similar paragraph from Liza’s perspective describing her sister

**Extract 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15 | Ask any problem child how they feel about being dumped at their eighth school in five years and you’ll get about the same answer. I’m no exception, though I like to think my expulsions (as well as my taste in curses) tend to be a bit more creative than your average bully’s. I can’t overstate how little I wanted to be dragged to Nevermore Academy (my parents’ alma mater) on the fateful fall day that our family hearse wound up the drive. In my eyes, any institution that could produce my mother’s smug superiority or my parents’ nauseating obsession with each other was a place to be avoided at all costs. But as any investigative genius will tell you, it’s important to be able to admit when you’re wrong. And I was. About Nevermore Academy. About almost everything that happened there that year. In my defence, however, who could possibly have predicted that a campus notorious for housing your garden-variety outsiders and weirdos would play host to a monster mystery so deep, so twisted, that even I would be surprised by its conclusion?  ***Wednesday***: A Novelisation of Season One |

**Line 1** Explain what it means to be a ‘problem child’

**Line 5** Explain what is means to ‘overstate’ something

**Lines 7-9** Identify the two things that irritate the speaker about her parents

**Lines 10-15** Explain what the speaker was wrong about

**Line 15** Explain what the word ‘twisted’ means in this context

**All Lines** Identify three details that make the speaker seem like an outsider

**150 Words** Describe the appearance of Nevermore Academy

**Extract 5**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12 | The Killorans’ front door changed colour depending upon who knocked. Sky blue for a charming acquaintance, heart red for a lover present, past, or future. Clover green for a spiteful enemy, or a rich, jammy plum for an old friend. Mustard yellow for family and, due to a slight inaccuracy with the spellwork, traveling salesmen. The day the Bloodmoons paid a visit, the door turned as black as the bottom of a well. Mellora had just returned home from a long shift at Saint Isidore’s, the nearby hospital for magical maladies, to find her husband, Joran, and daughter, Saffron, giggling with glee. Joran was slowly and methodically turning everything in the house into sausages, including but not limited to the taps in the kitchen sink, all the cutlery in the top drawer, several house plants, the cat’s furious tail, and his own high-bridged nose.  ***Silvercloak***, by L. K. Steven |

**Lines 2-3** Provide a reason why the colour red is for a ‘lover past, present, or future’

**Line 3** Provide a reason why the colour green is for a ‘spiteful enemy’

**Lines 5** Identify two connotations of the name ‘Bloodmoon’

**Line 9** Explain what the word ‘glee’ means

**Line 8** Explain what the word ‘maladies’ means

**Lines 9-12** Identify two things that we learn about the character of Joran

**All Lines** Choose two details that form a contrast

**150 Words** Write about Mellora’s reaction immediately after she enters the house

**Extract 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16 | The morning bell rang out across the sprawling grounds of St Luke’s College, stirring the prestigious Sydney boys’ school into its usual frenetic motion. Swarms of navy-blue blazers and grey slacks flooded the brick-paved courtyard as students bustled towards their first classes, their voices rising in a loud chatter. Christy Peacock stood outside the drama hall, leaning against the doorway as a river of adolescent faces streamed past. She clutched a stack of scripts, her hazel eyes shining with warmth as she called out greetings to students she knew. ‘Morning, Joseph.’ She waved to a lanky blond boy. He gave her a dimpled smile, his gaze lingering a moment too long before his friends jostled him down the corridor. Christy sighed, tucking a stray auburn curl behind her ear. She was used to the boys’ harmless crushes, though they made herself-conscious sometimes. She’d been teaching drama for a little over a year, but already felt she’d found her calling. Seeing the creativity blossom in her students, watching their confidence unfurl on stage – it filled her with purpose.  ***Wild Horses***, by Jennifer Scoullar |

**Line 1**  What does the word ‘sprawling’ mean?

**Line 2** What does the word ‘prestigious’ mean?

**Line 3** Explain what the phrase ‘Swarms of navy-blue blazers’ suggests

**Line 6** Provide a reason why the passing students are described as a ‘river’

**Lines 7-8** Choose a detail that suggests Christy is a friendly character

**Lines 9-10** Choose a detail that suggests Joseph has a crush on Christy

**Lines 14-16** Identify the two words that describe the growth of a flower

**All Lines** Choose three words to describe the speaker

**150 Words** Write a description of a busy school corridor at the start of breaktime