



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0058/02

Paper 2 Fiction

April 2025

INSERT

1 hour

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading text.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Text for **Section A**, an extract from *The Swifts* by Beth Lincoln

Shenanigan and her two sisters, Felicity and Phenomena, are staying with her Aunt Schadenfreude (also known as the Matriarch). They are waiting for the arrival of their other aunt, Aunt Inheritance.

As they drew closer to the House, Shenanigan noticed two unusual things. The first was that there was a car in the driveway: sleek, low-slung, bottle-green, with a nose like a barracuda¹. The second was that Cook was coming towards them at a sprint. She had a smear of oil on one cheek – she must have been working on her motorbike – and her arms and legs pumped furiously. She skidded to a stop in a shower of gravel.

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‘She’s here,’ Cook panted.

Shenanigan gave a whoop of excitement and raced off in the direction of the House, leaving her family in the dust.

At first, in the gloom of the hall, Shenanigan could only see a pair of white-gloved hands. When her eyes adjusted, she could make out the rest of the woman. She was almost as pale as her gloves, with skin like an apple that had been left in the fruit bowl for one too many days, dull and loose-looking. It made it difficult to guess her age. She was wearing a tweed suit, and had frizzy hair of a doubtful colour, inexpertly pinned back. As she turned towards Shenanigan, her little round glasses flashed.

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‘Matriarch!’ she intoned. ‘The time has come again! We – oh.’

She blinked at Shenanigan, who, remembering her manners, was walking towards her with her palm outstretched. The woman took one look at Shenanigan’s hands, covered in cake and dirt, and put both of her own behind her back as if she was being offered a dead rat.

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In the awkward pause that followed, the rest of Shenanigan’s family caught up.

When the woman spoke again, she had an accent that came from an English university, and a voice that was used to libraries.

‘Ah, there you are, Matriarch,’ she said with some relief, nodding towards Aunt Schadenfreude. ‘The time has come again! Once more, we gather –’

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‘*Inheritance*,’ Aunt Schadenfreude interrupted. ‘You were supposed to arrive tomorrow.’

Inheritance’s nodding increased in speed and enthusiasm. ‘Yes, yes, *but* we

have a matter of *great* importance to – ’

‘Well, I suppose you’re here now,’ allowed Aunt Schadenfreude, ‘and there’s little 35
we can do. Girls, this is your Aunt Inheritance. Inheritance, these are the girls:
Felicity, Phenomena and Shenanigan, in order of descending age and rising
inconvenience.’

‘Pleased to, ah, meet you,’ Inheritance said.

This was a lie, Shenanigan knew. A lie is a mischievous thing with a life of its 40
own, and no matter how hard you try to keep it hidden, it will surface on your
face, or through your hands, or in the way you shift from one leg to another.
Shenanigan had always been good at spotting them, and this one was hovering
just underneath her aunt’s left eye. Though she had been waiting for
Inheritance’s arrival for weeks, something about her made Shenanigan take an 45
instant dislike – maybe it was the watery eyes, or her white gloves, or the way
she was looking at Shenanigan as if she was something she’d found going
mouldy at the back of a cupboard.

Glossary

¹barracuda: a large sea fish with sharp teeth that attacks other fish

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