
Section B: Unseen Poetry

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Question 9

0 9 Read the poem below and answer the question that follows.

Children In Wartime

Sirens ripped open
the warm silk of sleep;
we ricocheted to the shelter
moated by streets
that ran with darkness.
People said it was a storm,
but flak*
had not the right sound
for rain;
thunder left such huge craters
of silence,
we knew this was no giant
playing bowls.
And later,
when I saw the jaw of glass,
where once had hung
my window spun with stars;
it seemed the sky
lay broken on my floor.

Isobel Thirling

*flak: anti-aircraft fire

How does this poet present the ways children are affected by war?

(18 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Question 09: Isobel Thirling, *Children in Wartime*, Longman

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