

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL - SESSION 2004

ÉPREUVE	ANGLAIS LV.1	Durée : 3 heures
Série	L	Coefficient : 4
<i>Ce sujet comporte 8 pages numérotées de 1/8 à 8/8.</i>		

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

Ce cahier est destiné à recevoir vos réponses. Vous le remettrez à la fin de l'épreuve. Ne vous en servez pas comme d'un brouillon. Il n'est pas prévu de vous en fournir un second. Vous ne pouvez pas utiliser de feuilles supplémentaires.

Barème	
Compréhension -Expression	14
Traduction	6

Although it was only five o'clock, the sun had already set and the evening was very still, as all spring evenings are, just before the birds begin to sing themselves to sleep; or maybe tell one another bedside stories. The village was quiet. The men had gone away to fish for the night after working all the morning with the sowing. Women were away milking the cows in the little fields
5 among the crags.

Brigid Gill was alone in her cottage waiting for her little son to come home from school. He was now an hour late, and as he was only nine years she was very nervous about him, especially as he was her only child and he was a wild boy, always getting into mischief, mitching from school, fishing minnows on Sunday and building stone 'castles' in the great crag¹ above the village. She
10 kept telling herself that she would give him a good scolding and beating when he came in, but at the same time her heart was thumping with anxiety and she started at every sound, rushing out to the door and looking down the winding road that was now dim with the shadows of evening. So many things could happen to a little boy.

His dinner of dried fish and roast potatoes was being kept warm in the oven among the peat²
15 ashes beside the fire on the hearth, and on the table there was a plate, a knife and a little mug full of buttermilk³.

At last she heard the glad cries of the schoolboys afar off, and rushing out she saw their tiny forms scampering, not up the road, but across the crags to the left, their caps in their hands.

"Thank God," she said, and then she persuaded herself that she was very angry. Hurriedly
20 she got a small dried willow rod, sat down on a chair within the door and waited for her little Stephen.

He advanced up the yard very slowly, walking near the stone fence that bounded the vegetable garden, holding his satchel in his left hand by his side, with his cap in his right hand, a red-cheeked slim boy, dressed in a close-fitting grey frieze trousers that reached a little below his
25 knees and a blue sweater. His feet were bare and covered with all sorts of mud. His face perspired and his great soft blue eyes were popping out of his head with fright. He knew his mother would be angry.

At last he reached the door and, holding down his head, he entered the kitchen. The mother immediately jumped up and seized him by the shoulder. The boy screamed, dropped his satchel and
30 his cap and clung to her apron. The mother raised the rod to strike, but when she looked down at the little trembling body, she began to tremble herself and she dropped the stick. Stooping down, she raised him up and began kissing him, crying at the same time with tears in her eyes.

¹ *crag* : a big rock or a steep mountain side.

² *peat* : tourbe.

³ *buttermilk* : bas-beurre.

“What's going to become of you atall, atall? God save us, I haven't the courage to beat you and you're breaking my heart with your wickedness.”

35 The boy sobbed, hiding his head in his mother's bosom.

“Go away,” she said, thrusting him away from her, “and eat your dinner. Your father will give to you a good thrashing in the morning. I've spared you often and begged him not to beat you, but this time I'm not going to say a word for you. You've my heart broken, so you have. Come here and eat your dinner.”

40 She put the dinner on the plate and pushed the boy into the chair. He sat down sobbing, but presently he wiped his eyes with his sleeve and began to eat ravenously. Gradually his face brightened and he moved about on the chair, settling himself more comfortably and forgetting all his fears of his mother and the thrashing he was going to get next morning in the joy of satisfying his hunger. The mother sat on the doorstep, knitting in silence and watching him lovingly from
45 under her long black eyelashes.

All her anger had vanished by now and she felt glad that she had thrust all the responsibility for punishment on to her husband. Still, she wanted to be severe, and although she wanted to ask Stephen what he had been doing, she tried to hold her tongue. At last, however she had to talk.

“What kept you, Stephen?” she said softly.

50 Stephen swallowed the last mouthful and turned around with his mug in his hand.

Liam O'Flaherty, *Mother and son*, 1966.

I – COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION

1. When does the scene take place (season, time of day)?

.....

2. Say where the scene is set and what picture of rural life is given here.

.....

.....

3. Who are the main characters, present and mentioned? Give their full names when possible.

.....

.....

4. What social class does this community belong to? Justify your opinion with at least four quotations from the text.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Why is the woman very nervous about her son? What sorts of dangers are alluded to in the text?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. How is the boy's vulnerability suggested so as to appeal to the reader's sympathy?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. Pick out the words or expressions that illustrate the mother's anxiety.

.....

.....

.....

8. The little boy: what expression may account for his mother's apprehension?

.....

**9. What various stages is the mother going through before and after the boy's return?
Refer to precise lines in the text.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

10. Is it the first time the boy has found himself in this situation? Justify your answer with two quotations.

.....

.....

.....

