

Tutor-marked Assignment B

Allow two hours for this assignment. Answer both questions.

1.

Scraping suitcases and laughter. Shall I go down?
I hear my name called, peer over the bannister
And remember something I left in my bedroom.
What can it have been? The window is wide open.
The curtains move. The light sways. The cold sets in.

This is the last verse of a poem. The first part of your assignment is simply to convert it into a piece of prose writing

The second part of your assignment is to plan and write an account of an imaginary experience which *ends* with the piece of writing you have produced from the poem.

Notes: You will need to imagine an event which leads up to the given ending. Try not to produce a long complicated story: it is better to concentrate on one or two incidents. Write your account in the first person ('I').

2. Hill House is an old country hotel, owned and run by a Mrs. Woods.

(a) A representative of the Good Hotel Guide goes to visit Hill House for a night in order to write a report for the Guide. S/He enjoys the visit, and writes an enthusiastic account of his/her stay.

Write the account of the visit as if you were the Good Hotel Guide Representative.

Notes: Before you go ahead with writing, read part (b) of this question, as you are aiming for a contrast between the two pieces of writing you produce. You should write in the first person. Describe the hotel from the outside as you first see it, then describe the rest of your visit, including the interior of the hotel, Mrs Woods, and all the comforts and facilities the hotel offers. You could convey to your readers your enjoyment of the visit, and make Hill House sound attractive to other potential visitors.

(b) A novelist specialising in writing murder mysteries and ghost stories goes to spend a night at Hill House, hoping it will provide a suitable setting for a story called 'Hotel of Horror'. S/He keeps a writer's journal, and in it writes a description of Hill House and Mrs Woods. Write the description as if you were the writer.

Notes: Write in diary form, e.g. 'Visited Hill House. Just right for Hotel of Horror. Huge dark house with broken chimney and crows flying above...'

Describe the same features of Hill House (including Mrs. Woods) as you described in part (a), but instead of making them sound attractive and inviting, try to make them sound sinister, frightening and mysterious.