
CE AT 13+

ENGLISH

ISEB

Independent Schools
Examinations Board

Paper 1 – Reading (Specimen Drama Insert)

Date

Specimen

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Read this excerpt from *Our Day Out*, by Willy Russell, and then answer the questions on the question paper.

Two teachers, Mrs Kay and Mr Briggs, are taking a class on a school trip to the zoo and to a castle in Wales. Benches have been placed on stage to represent the coach on which the children and their teachers are travelling.

At the front of the coach, Mrs Kay is having a word with the Driver.

Mrs Kay: Ronnie, I was wondering if there was somewhere we could stop for a while, have a cup of tea and let them stretch their legs?

Driver: All right, Mrs Kay, there's a café just up ahead; d' y' want me to pull in?

Mrs Kay: Thanks, Ron. 5

The song begins as the Kids dismantle the coach and reset the seats to form the café/ shop and picnic area.

Briggs: *(sings)*
All right! Let's get this straight.
We're only stopping for a quarter of an hour. 10
When you leave the bus, you will get in line and wait.
We do not want this visit turning sour.

Mrs Kay: It's all right, everybody, there will still be lots of time
For you to stretch your legs and let off steam.
You're free to leave the bus now but please don't go getting lost. 15
The shop's that way, for those who want ice cream.

The Kids cheering as they set up the shop/café.

Briggs: All right! Now that's enough.
You're behaving like a gang of common scruffs.
Come on now, get in line, I said line up, do what you're told. 20

Mrs Kay: For a straight line is a wonderful thing to behold
As the music continues as underscoring¹, Briggs addresses the Kids.

Briggs: *(spoken)* Now the people who run these places provide a good and
valuable service to travellers like ourselves and so I want to see this
place treated with the sort of respect it deserves. Now come on, let's 25
have a straight line, in twos.

Mrs Kay at the front of the queue which is being formed. Inevitably there are Kids who don't conform exactly to Briggs' concept of a straight line.

Briggs: Come on, you two, get in line. You two! (Barking at the Kids.) Cut out the
fidgeting. Just stand. Straight! That's more... RONSON. Come here, lad. 30

Mrs Kay: Mr Briggs...

¹ **underscoring:** the music plays quietly while the characters speak, rather than sing

Briggs: It's all right, Mrs Kay! (To **Ronson**.) Now just where do you think you are lad?

Ronson: *(a beat, as he wonders)* Sir... Sir, Wales?

Briggs: *(almost screaming by now)* Get in line, lad. 35
(sings) All right. That's looking fine:
Chaos turned to order in a stroke.

Mrs Kay: Quite amazing, Mr Briggs, they're standing in a line!

Briggs: And it's important, Mrs Kay, it's not a joke.

Mrs Kay: Oh yes, of course it's awfully serious. I'm terribly impressed. 40
Such achievements are the hallmark of the great.
A quite remarkable example of a very straight, straight line.
Congratulations, Mr Briggs, it's... well, it's straight!

Briggs: I think that's good, don't you?

Mrs Kay: They do so well at standing two by two. 45

Briggs: They do us credit, Mrs Kay.

Mrs Kay: Perhaps that's true,
If you stake your reputation on a stationary queue!

Briggs: *(spoken)* With organisation, Mrs Kay, with organisation it can be done.

Café Owner: Right, two at a time. 50
The Kids charge as one into the shop.

Briggs: *(apoplectic)* Stop, I said stop... stop...
Mrs Kay takes his arm and diverts him.

Mrs Kay: Oh let's forget about them for a while. Come and have some coffee out
of my flask. Come on. 55
A sea of Kids in front of a sweet counter and a harassed Café Owner.

Café Owner: Fifty-four, the chocolate bars are fifty-four.

Maurice: That's robbery.

Kids: They're only thirty pence down our way.

Girl One: Yeh, an' they're twice the size. 60

Kid: Ey, missis, give us one of them up there.
As she turns her back the Kids begin taking sweets.

Café Owner: Hey. Put that down, give that here. Where's your teachers? They
should be in here with you.