**Extract from ‘The Tenant of Wildfell Hall’ by Anne Bronte**

*In this extract from near the beginning of the novel, the narrator – a farmer – is walking home.*

I plodded home from the fields, one cold, damp, cloudy evening towards the close of October.  But the gleam of a bright red fire through the parlour window had more effect in cheering my spirits, and rebuking my thankless repinings, than all the sage reflections and good resolutions I had forced my mind to frame;—for I was young then, remember—only four-and-twenty—and had not acquired half the rule over my own spirit that I now possess—trifling as that may be.

However, that haven of bliss must not be entered till I had exchanged my miry boots for a clean pair of shoes, and my rough coat for a respectable coat, and made myself generally presentable before decent society; for my mother, with all her kindness, was vastly particular on certain points.

In ascending to my room I was met upon the stairs by a smart, pretty girl of nineteen, with a tidy, dumpy figure, a round face, bright, blooming cheeks, glossy, clustering curls, and little merry brown eyes.  I need not tell you this was my sister Rose.  She is, I know, a comely matron still, and, doubtless, no less lovely—in your eyes—than on the happy day you first beheld her.  Nothing told me then that she, a few years hence, would be the wife of one entirely unknown to me as yet, but destined hereafter to become a closer friend than even herself, more intimate than that unmannerly lad of seventeen, by whom I was collared in the passage, on coming down, and well-nigh jerked off my equilibrium, and who, in correction for his impudence, received a resounding whack over the sconce, which, however, sustained no serious injury from the infliction; as, besides being more than commonly thick, it was protected by a redundant shock of short, reddish curls, that my mother called auburn.

On entering the parlour we found that honoured lady seated in her arm-chair at the fireside, working away at her knitting, according to her usual custom, when she had nothing else to do.  She had swept the hearth, and made a bright blazing fire for our reception; the servant had just brought in the tea-tray; and Rose was producing the sugar-basin and tea-caddy from the cupboard in the black oak side-board, that shone like polished ebony, in the cheerful parlour twilight.

‘Well! here they both are,’ cried my mother, looking round upon us without retarding the motion of her nimble fingers and glittering needles.  ‘Now shut the door, and come to the fire, while Rose gets the tea ready; I’m sure you must be starved;—and tell me what you’ve been about all day;—I like to know what my children have been about.’

As for me, I was hungry, and contented myself with silently demolishing the tea, ham, and toast, while my mother and sister went on talking, and continued to discuss; but I must confess,, I once or twice raised the cup to my lips, and put it down again without daring to taste the contents, lest I should injure my dignity.

**Glossary:**

Retared – Slowed down

Comely – Pretty

Matron – A mother

Repinings – Sadness, complaints

Q1. Read lines 1-12. List four things the writer tells the reader about the narrator. [4]

Q2. Read through lines 11-18. How does the writer use language to present a vivid picture of the narrator’s sister, Rose? You could include the writer’s choice of:

* Words and phrases
* Language features and techniques
* Sentence forms [8]

Q3. You now need to think about the whole of the extract.

How has the writer structured to the text to show the reader the importance of the narrator’s home and family?

You could write about:

* What the writer chooses to focus on in what order
* How the writer changes the focus on the extract
* Any other structural features you notice [8]

Q4. Focus your answer on the second half of the source, from line 25 to the end.

A student, having read this section of the text said: “The writer uses this section to suggest to the reader what a comfortable and welcoming environment the narrator lives in.”

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

* Write about your own impression of the character
* Evaluate how the writer has created that impression
* Support your opinions with reference to the text **[20 ]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**