**Unseen Poetry (45 minutes, 25 marks)**

**Read the poem below and answer the questions which follow it.**

**It Was Long Ago**

I’ll tell you something, shall I, something I remember?

Something that still means a great deal to me.

It was long ago.

A dusty road in summer I remember,

A mountain, and an old house, and a tree 5

That stood, you know,

Behind the house. An old woman I remember

In a red shawl with a grey cat on her knee

Humming under a tree.

She seemed the oldest thing I can remember, 10

But then perhaps I was not more than three.

It was long ago.

I dragged on the dusty road, and I remember

How the old woman looked over the fence at me

And seemed to know 15

How it felt to be three, and called out, I remember

‘Do you like bilberries and cream for tea?’

I went under the tree,

And while she hummed, and the cat purred, I remember

How she filled a saucer with berries and cream for me 20

So long ago,

Such berries and such cream as I remember

I never had seen before, and never see

Today, you know.

And that is almost all I can remember, 25

The house, the mountain, the grey cat on her knee,

Her red shawl, and the tree,

And the taste of the berries, the feel of the sun I remember,

And the smell of everything that used to be

So long ago, 30

Till the heat on the road outside again I remember,

And how the long dusty road seemed to have for me

No end, you know.

That is the farthest thing I can remember.

It won’t mean much to you. It does to me. 35

Then I grew up, you see.

Eleanor Farjeon

**Answer the questions below. Remember to answer in full sentences and use quotations to support your understanding.**

Look again at lines 1 to 12.

1. (a) How old was the speaker when this happened?

(1) (b) Briefly describe what happened.

(1) (c) Write down two quotations which make it clear that this is a memory.

(2) Look again at lines 13 to 24.

2. Alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound and onomatopoeia is the use of a word which creates the sound of the thing it describes.

(a) Write down an example of each.

(b) Explain why the poet might have used them.

Look at lines 19 to 30.

3. The poet uses all of the five senses in these lines. Find five examples, one for each sense. Use quotations to support your answer.

Look at lines 31 to 36.

4.a) Write down two quotations which suggest that travelling on ‘the road’ might have been difficult.

(b) The last line of the poem suggests a difference between the young child and the grownup. What does the poem suggest about being a young child?

Look at the poem as a whole.

5. What do you notice about the shape and form of the stanzas? Comment on anything you find interesting.