

 This poem is by Sharon Olds.

## The Missing Boy

(for Etan Patz)

Every time we take the bus  
 my son sees the picture of the missing boy.  
 He looks at it like a mirror – the dark  
 straw hair, the pale skin,  
 the blue eyes, the electric-blue sneakers with  
 slashes of jagged gold. But of course that  
 kid is little, only six and a half,  
 an age when things can happen to you,  
 when you're not really safe, and our son is seven,  
 practically fully grown – why, he would  
 tower over that kid if they could  
 find him and bring him right here on this bus and  
 stand them together. He holds to the pole,  
 wishing for that, the tape on the poster  
 gleaming over his head, beginning to  
 melt at the centre and curl at the edges as it  
 ages. At night, when I put him to bed,  
 my son holds my hand tight  
 and says he's sure that kid's all right,  
 nothing to worry about, he just  
 hopes he's getting the food he likes,  
 not just any old food, but the food  
 he likes the most, the food he is used to.



Name:	Class:	Date:
-------	--------	-------

# The Missing Boy

1 Where did the boy and his mother see the poster?

\_\_\_\_\_

	2b
1 mark	

2 The poet says that her son looks at the picture of the missing boy *like a mirror*. What does she mean? Tick **one**.

The poster is shiny.

Her son looks at the poster for a long time.

The boy in the poster looks like her son.

Her son can see his reflection in the poster.

	2g
1 mark	

3 Describe **two** ways in which the poet's son and the missing boy look alike.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

	2b
1 mark	

4 a) Do you think the poet believes her seven-year-old son is *practically fully grown*?

\_\_\_\_\_

	2d
1 mark	

b) Why do you think the poet describes her son in this way?

\_\_\_\_\_

	2g
1 mark	

	/ 5
Total for this page	

Name:	Class:	Date:
-------	--------	-------

# Room 13

1 Which of these words does the writer use to describe Fliss? Tick **two**.

- tall       pale       dark   
 alone       afraid

	2b
1 mark	

2 This passage opens the first chapter of the story. What purpose do you think this passage serves in the story as a whole? Tick the **best** answer.

- to introduce the main characters in the story   
 to describe the setting of the story   
 to set the mood of the story   
 to tell the reader what Fliss is like   
 to explain what happened before the story began

	2f
1 mark	

3 Look at the paragraph beginning: *She came to a landing with doors ...*

How does the writer make this paragraph scary? Write **one** way, explaining how it adds to the scariness.

---



---

	2g
2 marks	

4 Tick to show whether the following sentences about Fliss's dream are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
The house is near the sea.	✓	
The animal depicted on the gate is a bat.		
Fliss pushes open the door to Room 13.		
Fliss is afraid of Room 13 even before she sees what is inside.		

	2b
1 mark	

	/ 5
Total for this page	