

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2011

ANGLAIS LV1

SÉRIE L

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 4

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

Dès que le sujet vous est remis assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

Ce sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées de 1 à 5.

## BARÈME

COMPRÉHENSION – EXPRESSION	14 POINTS
TRADUCTION	6 POINTS

In the story, the character based on Sally remembers a more passionate relationship she had when she was young (with a character Nora made up; Sally had never talked about anything like this) and wonders what her life would have been like if she'd stayed with him.

5 Sally had expressed an interest in reading Nora's fiction, and this was the story Nora decided to let her read. She thought Sally would find it amusing to trace the influence of writers they'd talked about—to find herself a character in a story that contained a hint of James's<sup>1</sup> "The Beast in the Jungle", a hint of Joyce's<sup>2</sup> "The Dead." Nora had known that her story about Gina would hurt her, but she was incapable of  
10 imagining that she had the power to hurt Sally, a woman in her thirties, an adult.

Nora gave Sally the story on the last day of the school year. Sally said she was eager to read it, but Nora heard nothing from her for two weeks. Finally, Nora called her, and they arranged to meet at a coffee shop. After they ordered, Nora asked her if she'd had a chance to read it yet.

15 "Yes, I read it. I read it the day you gave it to me."

"What did you think?"

"I can't say it filled me with a fond elation," Sally said. Sometimes she talked like a book. "First of all, it's not exactly flattering to be the main character in a story about someone who hasn't really lived. But the more important thing is, I *trusted* you.  
20 Which means that when you were baby-sitting my kids, I didn't expect that you'd be going through my diaries. I don't care that you went snooping. Everybody snoops. But to find my keys and go into the closet and unlock the trunk and read my diaries... and then to write a little fable in which everything is true but everything is taken out of context. How did you expect me to react?"

25 Nora told her she didn't know what she was talking about.

"Come on, Nora. *Jesse*?"

Jesse was the name of the old flame in the story.

"You mean there *was* a Jesse?"

30 "Yes," Sally said. "There was a Jesse. His name was Jesse."

"Are you serious?" Nora said.

"Are you saying you came up with the name Jesse out of the blue?"

"Of course I did. God! How weird. Maybe I'm psychic. That's incredible." She was talking too fast. In her own ears she sounded guilty, even though she wasn't. She'd snooped around in Sally's medicine cabinet and in one or two dresser drawers, maybe, but she'd never gone searching for diaries.  
35

Sally finished her coffee and studied Nora as if she was trying to decide about her once and for all. "I'm not sure if I believe you," she said.

They sat there awkwardly for a minute, and then Sally gathered up her things. "Well, good luck," she said. Nora never heard from her again.

40 The episode left Nora with a confused wash of emotions. She regretted hurting someone she cared about; she was distressed about being suspected of doing something she hadn't done. But she was also filled with a feeling of power. It wasn't the first time she'd seen that her fiction had the power to hurt people—but it *was* the first time she saw that it had the power to root out the truth about people's lives.

45 She never again had such an uncanny visitation of knowledge; she turned out not to be psychic after all. But time and again, she found that once she started writing

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry James : American-born novelist (1843-1916)

<sup>2</sup> James Joyce : Irish writer (1882-1941)

about people, she intuited more about them than they wanted anyone to know. It was as if she had a dowsing rod<sup>3</sup> that led her straight to people's psychic frailties.

Brian Morton, *A Window across the River*, 2003 (abridged)

---

<sup>3</sup> a dowsing rod : a wooden stick used to detect the presence of water underground

### NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant l'ordre des questions et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation** (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement (moins de 20 mots) à la question posée.

### COMPRÉHENSION ET EXPRESSION

1. How many characters are present in the scene? Give their names, ages and occupations when possible.
2. What is the relationship between them?
3. a) What interest do they have in common?  
b) Explain in your own words how this interest manifests itself. Give two elements.
4. Line 5: "...this was the story Nora decided to let her read."  
a) What is the story about?  
b) How did Nora expect her to react to this particular story? Why? Give two elements to justify your answer.
5. *Focus on the passage from line 11 to 14.* Describe Sally's attitude before and after Nora gave her the story.

#### ***Read from line 15 to 39.***

6. Who initiated the meeting and why?
7. a) How does Sally react to the story she has read?  
b) In your own words, explain her reaction. (40 words)
8. Line 28: "You mean there *was* a Jesse?" Comment on the use of italics. What do they tell the reader about:  
a) Nora's emotion?  
b) the character of Jesse?
9. Line 31: "Are you saying you came up with the name of Jesse out of the blue?" Explain the underlined sections using your own words.

10. What did Sally decide at the end of the conversation and why? Support your answer with elements from the text. (30 words)

**Read from line 40 to the end.**

11. Line 40: "The episode left Nora with a confused wash of emotions". Explain the underlined segment in your own words. (40 words)
12. Nora suddenly realises that she has a gift unknown to her before. Which one?
13. In your opinion, to what extent could this talent hurt people?
14. Choose one of the following subjects: subject 1 OR subject 2.  
250 words approximately. Indicate the number of words.

**Subject 1:** lines 36-37: "Sally finished her coffee and studied Nora as if she was trying to decide about her once and for all..." Starting from this point, imagine a completely different ending to this story.

**Subject 2:** Do you think writers have the power to affect people's lives? Support your point of view with specific examples.

### TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 17 ("*Sometimes she talked like a book.*") to line 25 ("*Nora told her she didn't know what she was talking about.*").