

**Anglais LV1 série L**

**Sujet : E.L. Doctorow 'Ragtime' 1976**

**I. COMPREHENSION-EXPRESSION (60 + 80 = 140 pts)**

1. The text deals with a regular weekly event. Which one? Explain the situation.

- *Every Sunday, a black man comes to visit a white family.*
- *He asks for a colored girl called Sarah.*
- *He is probably in love with her and wants to win her heart.*

**2 pts par item = 6 pts**

2. a) Introduce the visitor in your own words (name, physical appearance, occupation, place of residence).

- *He is called Coalhouse Walker Jr.*
  - *He is smart-looking and well-built.*
  - *He is a black man.*
  - *He is a professional pianist.*
  - *He lives in New York.*
- Bonus: *He is a member of the Jim Europe Clef Club Orchestra.*

**1 pt par item = 5 pts (+ 1 pt bonus)**

b) Describe his personality and social behaviour. Use the text to support your answer when possible.

- *He is polite.*  
*"if he could please speak with Sarah" l.12-13. "He thanked her." l.27.*  
**1 pt (rephrasing) + 1 pt (citation)**
- *He is patient and self-restrained.*  
*l.32: "always turning away without complaint."*  
**1 pt (rephrasing) + 1 pt (citation)**
- *He is well-behaved.*  
*l.45: "He is well-spoken and conducts himself as a gentleman."*  
*l.51: "He was courteous and correct."*  
**1 pt (rephrasing) + 1 pt (citation)**
- *He is self-confident in society.*  
*l.48-49: "He suffered no embarrassment by being in the parlor with a cup and saucer in his hand".*  
**1 pt (rephrasing) + 1 pt (citation)**
- *He is aware of his racial condition and so, he uses the back door.*  
*l.9.10 and l.32: "always knocking at the backdoor".*  
**1 pt (rephrasing) + 1 pt (citation)**
- *He is resolute and determined. He keeps coming back to see Sarah, even bringing flowers.*  
**1 pt**

**6 items = 11 pts**

\* *Accepter d'autres modes de reformulation si elles illustrent la personnalité ou la psychologie du visiteur.*

c) Find two elements in the text that show how wealthy he is.

- *He is probably quite well-off. He had a new Model T Ford: l.1* **2 pts**
- *He could buy expensive flowers: l.35-36 "left a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums which in this season had to have cost him a pretty penny."*

**2 pts**

Accepter aussi "he was dressed in the affectation of wealth to which coloured people lent themselves." l.14.15, bien qu'il y ait là la trace d'un point de vue subjectif.

**2 pts par item = 4 pts**

3. Introduce the 'young woman of color'.

a) What does the reader know about her and her present situation?

- *She is called Sarah.* **1 pt**
- *She has a baby.* **1 pt**
- *She lives in the attic of the narrator's family's house.* **2 pts**
- *She is very secretive and intransigent.* **2 pts**
- *She is mute / she refuses to speak.* **2 pts**

Bonus: *She is hiding.*

*The white family found the baby in a flowerbed in their garden.*

**5 items = 8 pts + 1 pt bonus(0,5 pt x 2)**

b) What can the reader guess about her connection with the visitor?

- *He probably is the baby's father.*
- *He probably abandoned her.*

**3 pts par item = 6 pts**

4. 'Mother' and 'Father' first had diverging reactions to the regular weekly event. Show the difference.

- *The mother was reticent at first.*
- *And then she saw the black man as a possible match for Sarah who was a single mother.*
- *She found the situation exhilarating, exciting, so she encouraged the visitor to come back.*
- *Then he was invited to have tea in the parlor. She even invited Grandfather and Younger Brother.* **4 pts**
- *On the contrary, the narrator's father wanted to discourage the visitor, he was very suspicious about him, especially because he was a black man.*

## CORRIGÉ - BAREME

- He objected to the visits and wanted to call the police to intimidate the black man.
- When his wife suggested inviting him, he did not accept at first. He was afraid of doing the wrong thing.
- When the black man started talking about his intentions, he cut him short, and asked him to play the piano to test him.

4 pts

1 pt par item = 8 pts

5. The text is an illustration of the place of black people in society at the time. What do we learn about it?

- They lived apart from the rest of the family.
- They would use the back door to get into white people's houses.
- They would never be invited for tea.

Bonus: White people would never shake hands with them 1 pt: 'Younger Brother shook the blackman's hand' as a sign of recognition. He had deserved a handshake.

2 pts par item = 6 pts 1 pt bonus

6. What is the role played by music in the story?

- The black man had probably won Sarah's heart. Music is his way of asking for Sarah's forgiveness.
- When 'Father' realized that the black man was a professional who could notice that the piano was out of tune, he felt ashamed because for once he felt inferior.
- It bridged the gap between the two communities. After listening to the piece of music, Father applauded with the rest of the family, finally convinced that the black man was a gifted pianist. Music gave him recognition from the white community.

2 pts par item = 6 pts

TOTAL = 60 points

7. Expression:

80 pts

Vous traiterez l'un des deux sujets au choix.

- a) Continue the story. (250 words)
- b) What part does music play in your life? (250 words)

II. TRADUCTION

Translate from "Such was the coming" l. 30 to "parlor window" l. 37.

|  |       |  |
|--|-------|--|
| Such was the coming  | 1 pt  | <i>C'est ainsi qu'arriva</i>   |
| of the colored man in the car to Broadview Avenue.                 | 1 pt  | <i>dans Broadview Avenue l'homme de couleur à la voiture.</i>                    |
| His name was Coalhouse Walker Jr.                                  | 1 pt  | <i>Il s'appelait Coalhouse Walker Jr.</i>  |
| Beginning with that Sunday   | 2 pts | <i>A partir de ce dimanche là,</i>   |
| he appeared every week,  | 1 pt  | <i>il réapparut chaque semaine,</i>  |
| always knocking at the back door,                                  | 1 pt  | <i>frappant toujours à la porte de derrière,</i>                                 |
| always turning away  | 1 pt  | <i>et s'en allant</i>  |
| without complaint  | 1 pt  | <i>sans se plaindre</i>  |
| upon Sarah's refusal to see him.                                   | 2 pts | <i>du fait que Sarah ne veuille pas le voir.</i>                                 |
| Father considered the visits a nuisance                            | 2 pts | <i>Père considérait que ces visites étaient gênantes</i>                         |
| and wanted to discourage them.                                     | 1 pt  | <i>et voulait faire en sorte qu'il n'ait plus envie de revenir.</i>              |
| I'll call the police, he said.                                     | 1 pt  | <i>Je vais appeler la police, dit-il.</i>  |
| Mother laid her hand on his arm.                                   | 2 pts | <i>Mère posa la main sur le bras de mon père.</i>                                |
| One Sunday the colored man left a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums | 2 pts | <i>Un dimanche, l'homme de couleur laissa un bouquet de chrysanthèmes jaunes</i> |
| which in this season   | 2 pts | <i>qui, vu la saison,</i>  |
| had to have cost him   | 3 pts | <i>avait dû lui coûter</i>   |
| a pretty penny.  | 2 pts | <i>une sacrée fortune.</i>   |
| Before she took the flowers up to Sarah,                           | 2 pts | <i>Avant de monter les fleurs à Sarah,</i>                                       |
| Mother stood at the parlor window.                                 | 2 pts | <i>Mère fit une pause devant la fenêtre du salon.</i>                            |

**TOTAL 30 x 2 = 60 points**