

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2010

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série L

Durée de l'épreuve 3 heures – Coefficient : 4

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

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

Compréhension et expression	14 points
Traduction	06 points

WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER, my bedroom was under an eave on the second floor of our two-hundred-year-old house. I slept in a twin iron bed beside the window, and there was a small table for a lamp and books next to the bed. In the summer the wide pine floors in the rest of the house never stopped creaking with visiting relatives coming and going and someone always making something to eat. My mother, a single parent who worked long hours at the hospital, would often nap in my room to escape the confusion. It was not unusual for me to find her list pad¹ on my bedside table.

The summer of my eighteenth year, for the first time in my life, I began staying out too late. I had been adrift in adolescent confusion for years by then but was finally giving my mother concrete trouble. I would go out after my summer job and stay out much too late with "inappropriate" friends. I knew my mother was upset by this, but I also knew her fear of direct confrontation. When our paths crossed, usually in the kitchen at about 6:30 P. M., her "angry parent scene" meant chilly glances and cupboard doors slammed shut.

One night, returning to the dark house, I slipped into my bedroom, turned on the light beside my bed, and saw my mother's list pad lying there. Printed neatly on the top page in my mother's large, round lettering were two words: "wash guilt."

I turned from the page quickly, hurriedly pulling on my pajamas. What was my mother trying to tell me? Wash guilt. Before my mother started working on Sundays, the closest we had come to religion was a few visits to the Unitarian Church of Baltimore. The tone of this message was too Baptist for my mother, but the cryptic abstraction, I decided, was just her style. Most mothers would wave a wooden spoon at a belligerent teenage daughter and say, "You be home by ten o'clock or you're grounded²!" My mother would send a message through a burning bush before she would sit down at the kitchen table with me and lay down a curfew³.

I left the pad exactly where it was and never said a word about it. I guess I thought that if I didn't move it, I wouldn't have to acknowledge it.

My mother left for work too early for me to see her the next morning, but the words stayed with me. Wash guilt. Riding my bike to my job, I kept repeating them: wash guilt, wash guilt. What was this about? What was my mother trying to tell me? Why couldn't she be normal and just yell at me? When I returned home that evening, the page and neat lettering were still lying there. Again I didn't touch it. When I met my mother in the kitchen, she stayed silent. Expecting to feel studied, I peered into the refrigerator, waiting to receive her prying looks. She should be fishing for a reaction, a sign of change in me. Her eyes never found my face, but they didn't seem to be avoiding me either. Did she regret the dagger she had put in my heart and hope to pretend that none of it had happened? If so, why didn't she just take away that list pad? Did she feel, as I did, that if she moved it she would have to acknowledge that it had been there, whereas if she let it be, we could both pretend that it had never been written? Ah-ha. Did I just see an inquisitive look? Did she try to catch a glimpse of my face? Was she inspecting my demeanor, looking for a sign of change? No. She just looked strangely interested in making dinner, strangely normal.

The next morning, I dressed looking at that page. Wash guilt. Still I didn't move it. Again I spent the day with those words. Again, in the kitchen that evening, my mother said nothing.

It continued like this for about a week. The list pad never moved. My mother never said anything about it. The words went with me everywhere. Each night I returned to them. Sometimes it felt as though I had a screeching parrot in the room, repeating harshly, "Waaaaash guilt!" Sometimes it felt as though there were a hooded monk⁴ standing silently beside my bed with that list pad in his hand.

For a week I wallowed⁵ in those words. They didn't necessarily change my behavior, although I did eventually lose the boyfriend, but I wore those words like a hair shirt⁶. Then, one lovely, miraculous day, it must have been sunny and clear, I came home, went up to my room, looked at the list pad—and it read: "wash quilt."

Heather Atwood, *True Tales of American Life*, 2001

¹ list pad = note pad (*bloc-notes*).

² grounded = forbidden to go out / punished.

³ curfew = a rule that people must be indoors by a stated time.

⁴ monk = *moine*

⁵ wallow = roll and struggle in a rough sea (*être balloté*).

⁶ hair shirt = a rough, hard shirt.

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront tous les exercices **sur la copie** qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro de l'exercice et, le cas échéant, la lettre repère ; ex. : 1a, 1b, etc.)
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger. 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
- faire précéder les citations éventuellement demandées du **numéro de ligne** dans le texte.

I - COMPRÉHENSION

1. Who are the two characters? Give their age, family situation and occupation when possible.
2. Explain in your own words why the mother sometimes naps in her daughter's bedroom. (30 words)
3. Why is the mother upset about her daughter's behaviour? Pick out two quotations from the text to support your answer.
4. Explain in your own words how the mother usually reacts to this behaviour and how, according to the daughter, it differs from that of most parents. (30 words)
5. What makes the daughter think that the words on the list pad are meant for her? (25 words)
6. Did the daughter pick up the list pad? Find three quotations to justify your answer.
7. Find in the text five expressions showing that the daughter expects to be closely observed by her mother.
8. Find three images showing the daughter becomes obsessed by the words on the list pad.
9. What did the mother actually want to wash?
 - a) a sin
 - b) a dog
 - c) a bedcover
10. What does the daughter realise at the end of the text? (20-25 words)

II - EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez les deux sujets

1. A teenager is reprimanded by his/her parents about his/her friends. Write the dialogue. (150 words)
2. In your opinion how should parents deal with rebellious teenagers? (150 words)

III - TRADUCTION

Translate into French from l. 31: "*When I met my mother...*" to l. 38: "*...it had never been written?*"