

## SPECIAL REVISION PROGRAMME

### ESSAY ANSWERS

#### THE LUMBER ROOM

*2016 – Write an analysis of the aunt’s character, discussing her contribution to the central theme of the story.*

**POINT 1 – The aunt is vindictive/revengeful and malicious. Punishments give her power and pleasure.**

- Quote – A few decent tears were looked for on the part of Nicholas when the moment for the departure of the expedition arrived.
- Quote – ‘Because you are in disgrace,’ said the aunt loftily.

**POINT 2 – She uses fear to control the children, and has no love to offer them. She treats them with hostility. She expects blind obedience rather than building up their character.**

- Quote – ‘He told you twice, but you weren’t listening. You often don’t listen when we tell you important things.’
- Quote – ‘Aunt often tells me that the Evil One tempts me and that I always yield. This time I’m not going to yield.’

**POINT 3 – She deprives them of their creativity and denies any activity that enhances their imagination.**

- Quote – ‘...that region that was so carefully sealed from youthful eyes and concerning which no questions were ever answered.’
- Quote – ‘a teapot fashioned like a china-duck, out of whose open beak the tea was supposed to come. How dull and shapeless the nursery teapot seemed in comparison!’

*2018 – Nicholas is more powerful than the aunt at the end of the story. Examine this statement referring to the events of the short story, The Lumber Room.*

Nicholas comes off as intellectually and imaginatively superior to the aunt, and he succeeds in deceiving her. However, the Aunt holds power in the situation as the adult.

**POINT 1 – Nicholas outwits the aunt and comes off as the victor. Regarding intellectual powers, Nicholas is more powerful.**

- Quote - As a matter of fact, he had no intention of trying to get into the gooseberry garden, but it was extremely convenient for him that his aunt should believe that he had; it was a belief that would keep her on self-imposed sentry-duty for the greater part of the afternoon.
- Quote - Having thoroughly confirmed and fortified her suspicions, Nicholas slipped back into the house and rapidly put into execution a plan of action that had long germinated in his brain.
- Quote - ‘Now I know that you are the Evil One and not aunt,’ shouted Nicholas gleefully.

**POINT 2 – Nicholas' imagination is powerful than the aunt.**

- Quote - 'She was a woman of few ideas, with immense powers of concentration.' / 'To Nicholas it was a living, breathing story.'
- Quote - How dull and shapeless the nursery teapot seemed in comparison!

**POINT 3 – However, overall, the Aunt wields authority over the aunt because she is the adult and Nicholas is a child. Therefore, power of intellect and imagination that he possesses is limited within the power that the aunt holds as their caretaker.**

- Quote - '...but Nicholas knew, with childish discernment that such luxuries were not to be over-indulged in.'