

NAME:

COURSE:

The Rocking-Horse Winner

He went off by himself, vaguely, in a childish way, seeking for the clue to 'luck'. Absorbed, taking no heed of other people, he went about with a sort of stealth, seeking inwardly for luck. He wanted luck, he wanted it, he wanted it. When the two girls were playing dolls in the nursery, he would sit on his big rocking-horse, charging madly into space, with a frenzy that made the little girls peer at him uneasily. Wildly the horse careered, the waving dark hair of the boy tossed, his eyes had a strange glare in them. The little girls dared not speak to him.

When he had ridden to the end of his mad little journey, he climbed down and stood in front of his rocking-horse, staring fixedly into its lowered face. Its red mouth was slightly open, its big eye was wide and glassy-bright.

"Now!" he would silently command the snorting steed. "Now take me to where there is luck! Now take me!"

And he would slash the horse on the neck with the little whip he had asked Uncle Oscar for. He knew the horse could take him to where there was luck, if only he forced it. So he would mount again and start on his furious ride, hoping at last to get there.

"You'll break your horse, Paul!" said the nurse.

"He's always riding like that! I wish he'd leave off!" said his elder sister Joan.

But he only glared down on them in silence. Nurse gave him up. She could make nothing of him. Anyhow, he was growing beyond her.

QUESTIONS

1. Find in the text words that have the same meaning as the following (1 point).

	Looking for, searching
	Uncontrolled and excited behaviour or emotion, which is sometimes violent.
	Look closely or carefully or with difficulty.
	Shine
	A horse which is ridden.

2. Choose the right option (4 points).

1. Paul's mother earned

- A few thousand pounds a year.*
- A few hundred pounds a year.*
- A few million ounds a year.*

2. Was Pul's mother satisfied with the money she earned?

- She was dissatisfied.*
- She was quite satisfied.*
- She was very satisfied.*

3. What did Paul's mother do when she received her first £1000 cheque for her birthday?

- She bought a new dress.*
- She asked her lawyer if she could have all her money at a time.*
- She asked her lawyer if she could buy a new car.*

