

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

English Literature

International Advanced Level
Unit 3: Poetry and Prose

Wednesday 17 January 2018 – Afternoon
Source Insert

Paper Reference

WET03/01

Do not return this Source Insert with the question paper.

P54506A

©2018 Pearson Education Ltd.

1/1/1/1



Turn over ►



Pearson

SECTION A: Post-1900 Unseen Poetry

Question 1

A Day on the River

It moved so slowly, friendly as a dog
 Whose teeth would never bite;
 It licked the hand with cool and gentle tongue
 And seemed to share its parasites' delight
 Who moved upon its back or moored among
 The hairy shallows overhung
 With natural parasols of leaves
 And bubbling birdsong.
 Ukuleles* twanged and ladies sang
 In punts and houseboats vivid as our own
 Bold paintings of the Ark*;
 This was summer's self to any child:
 The plop and suck of water and the old
 Sweet rankness in the air beguiled
 With deft archaic spells the dim
 Deliberations of the land,
 Dear river, comforting
 More than the trailing hand.

The afternoon of sandwiches and flasks
 Drifted away.
 The breeze across the shivering water grew
 Perceptibly in strength. The sun began to bleed.

'Time to go home,' the punctured uncles said,
 And back on land
 We trembled at the river's faint, low growl
 And as birds probed the mutilated sky
 We knew that, with the night,
 The river's teeth grew sharp
 And they could bite.

Vernon Scannell

Glossary:

* *Ukulele(s)* – a small four-stringed guitar

* *Ark* – a reference to a boat in the Bible

Source taken/adapted from:

Collected poems 1950–1993, Vernon Scannell, Robson Books (1962)

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. Pearson Education Ltd. will, if notified, be happy to rectify any errors or omissions and include any such rectifications in future editions.