‘**A Kestrel for a Knave’**

**Billy leaves his house early in the morning to complete his paper round. When he has finished he returns home.**

**Read the following extract and then answer the following questions.**

**Q1: List four things you learn about Billy’s mother. (4 marks)**

When Billy arrived home, the curtains were still drawn in all the front windows, but the light was on in the living room. As he crossed the front garden, a man appeared from round the side of his house and walked up the path to the gate. Billy watched him walk away down the avenue, then ran round to the back door and into the kitchen.

‘Is that you, Reg?’

Billy banged the door and walked through to the living room. His mother was standing in her underslip, a lipstick poised at her mouth, watching the doorway through the mirror. When she saw Billy, she started to apply her lipstick.

‘O, it’s you, Billy. Haven’t you gone to school yet?’

‘Who’s that bloke?’

His mother pressed her lips together and stood the capsule, like a bullet, on the mantelpiece.

‘That’s eg. You know Reg, don’t you?’

She took a cigarette packet from the mantelpiece and shook it.

‘Hell! I forgot to ask him for one.’ She dropped the packet into the hearth and turned to Billy. ‘You haven’t got a fag on you, have you, love?’

Billy moved across the table and placed both hands around the teapot. His mother pulled on her skirt and tried to zip it. The zip would only half close, so she secured the waistband with a safety pin.

**Billy and his mother have an argument. She tries to hit him and orders him to go and place Jud’s bet at the betting shop. Billy refuses and goes to see his bird, Kes in the shed.**

**Q1: List four things you learn about the shed where he keeps his bird, Kes. (4 marks)**

Billy walked down the path towards the shed at the bottom of the garden. In front of the shed a small square of ground had been covered with pebbles and bordered with whitewashed bricks, set into the soil side by side, at an angle. The roof and sides of the shed had been patched neatly with lengths of tarpaulin. The door had been freshly painted, and a square had been sawn out of the top half and barred vertically with clean laths. On a shelf behind the bars stood a kestrel hawk.

**Q1: List four things you learn about the kestrel, Kes. (4 marks)**

She was rufous brown. Flecked breast, dark bars across her back and wings. Wings pointed, crossed over her rump and barred tail. Billy clicked his tongue, and chanted softly “Kes, Kes, Kes, Kes.” The hawk stood and listened to him, her fine head help high on strong shoulders, her brown eyes round and alert.

“Did you hear her, Kes, making mouth again? Gobby old cow. Do this, do that. I’ve got to do everything in this house…Well they can shit. I’m fed up with being chased about…There’s allus someone after me.”

He slowly lifted one hand and began to rub one of the laths with his forefinger. The hawk watched all of the time.

“An’ our Jud, he’s worst o’t’lot, he’s allus after me…allus has been. Like that day last summer when I fetched you, he was after me then…”

**Q2 Look at all of the extracts here. How does the writer use language to present Billy’s family life? (8 marks)**