*The Fire Star* by A I Tait Trish Buckley

All questions worth 2 marks each

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|  | Question | Answer | Page number and points allocation |
| 1 | What did Maven think might delay their arrival at Rennart Castle right at the start of the novel? What actually did? | She thought they might get stopped by the King’s Men, but they are actually delayed by a broken cart spilling goats. | pp. 1-2 1 mark for king’s men1 mark for goats |
| 2 | What is Maven’s opinion of boys like Reeve the Squire when she first encounters him? | They are all charming, fashionably dressed, talented in poetry and swordplay but ultimately utterly useless. | p. 4½ mark charming½ mark fashionable½ talented½ useless |
| 3 | How does a person know who Reeve is in the service of?  | His tunic’s design of black with a bright blue fox identifies him as Sir Garrick Sharp, Protector Knight | p. 111 mark for tunic description1 mark for naming his knight |
| 4 | What does Reeve’s father threaten him with if the knight refuses to take him on as his squire? | His father will despatch him on the first ship to ‘make his own way in the world’ | pp. 14 – 151 mark for finding a ship1 mark for having to make it on his own |
| 5 | Explain the difference between the duties of the Battle Squire and the Squire of the Table? | The Battle Squire takes care of the knight’s arms and armour and assists in the chamber. The Squire of the Table serves the knight at meals and accompanies him on his public duties | p. 211 mark for arms and armour and chamber help1 mark for meals and public duties |
| 6 | Give two reasons why Sir Garrick is hesitant about his impending marriage. | He believes Lady Cassandra thinks she is marrying beneath her (lower social status)He worries about ‘wooing’ her. | pp. 29 – 301 mark for feeling insecure about status1 mark for not knowing how to be romantic |
| 7 | How is Reeve’s point of view presented differently from Maven’s point of view? | Reeve’s perspective is written in third person whereas Maven’s is written in first person narrative voice | 1 mark for reeve – 3rd person1 mark for Maven- 1st person |
| 8 | How is it that the Fire Star stays in the hands of women? | Rumours of sorcery and ‘pitiless bad luck’ falling on any man who attempts to take ownership | pp. 36 – 371 mark for rumours and speculation1 mark for sorcery and bad luck |
| 9 | Why doesn’t Lady Cassandra want to marry Sir Garrick? | As the youngest of four sisters, she has always been made to do her older sisters’ bidding. Marrying Garrick will keep her at the bottom of the pecking order, and she will never be free of their bossiness and superior attitude. | p. 411 mark for being lower than her sisters socially1 mark for having to be kept in her place |
| 10 | What is the modern version of a ‘jongleur’? | A ‘jongleur’ is like an entertainer. They sing and play instruments at parties or functions. They are a musical performer | p. 42 up to 2 marks for understanding the role of the ‘jongleur’ |
| 11 | Name any two tasks Maven completes to prepare Cassandra for sleep. | Choose from:Unbraid hairBrush her hair till it gleamsWash feet in lavender-scented waterTuck her into crisp linen sheetsDraw velvet curtains | p. 461 mark for each correct answer |
| 12 | How many years of peace did Carteff have under the old King? How long did it take for the new King to undo it all? | 27 years of peace2 years of unrest | p. 511 mark for 27 years1 mark for 2 years |
| 13 | Why does Lorimer call Maven and Reeve to his office the first time? Who else should have been there? | To ensure they understand the importance of the wedding proceeding smoothly which may not happen given the reluctance of both bride and groom to be. Maven and Reeve must assist with this. Neale should also have been there. | pp. 67 – 681 and ½ marks for the reason½ mark for Neale |
| 14 | What is the secret that Reeve needs to keep hidden? Why? Who offers to help him? | He is significantly impaired at the sight of blood, which makes him more of a burden as a squire. Myra the wyld woman from the woods says she has a tincture that might help | pp. 78 – 801 mark for secret and reason1 mark for person who wants to help |
| 15 | What is the ‘sweeping man’s’ connection to Maven and Reeve? What secrets are revealed about him part way through the novel? | He is a loyal servant of Cassandra and a large part of their plan to stop the wedding. He is the one who steals the Fire Star for them. But when he is murdered, no one can find the jewel. | pp. 135 – 1401 mark for his connection to Maven and Cassandra1 mark for his secret |
| 16 | What two motivations keep Reeve quiet about the Beech Circle? | Revealing them would cause problems for Lady Rhosowen, a lady to whom he is loyalMyra will share his aversion to blood with Sir Garrick which would be very bad for him | p. 160 |
| 17 | What is it that breaks down barriers and forms a connection between Sir Garrick and Lady Cassandra? Who makes it happen? And why could it have ended in disaster? | Chess. They both play and Maven and Reeve try to help them find something in common. However, females of this time are not allowed to show any intelligence and it was possible that Sir Garrick would have rejected Cassandra because of her highly unusual interests and skill. | pp. 177 – 179½ mark for chess½ mark for Maven and Reeve1 mark for the reason it may have turned bad |
| 18 | What is Reeve seeking information about when he questions the stable hands? List two clues he discovers. | He is looking for information about Sullivan’s death. Choose from Lady Anice rides out early in the morning p. 186People thought Neale was a spy p. 191Sullivan recognised Neale from somewhere p.192Neale was curious and asked a lot of questions p. 191 | 1 mark for Reeve’s quest½ mark for each correct clue |
| 19 | According to Maven’s theories, what does Brantley want with Lady Anice? Why? | Brantley wants to be ‘seen with’ Lady Anice which would besmirch her good name and tie her to him, so he can get her father, the Airl of Buckthorn’s good favour. This could lead him to a knighthood, a dowry, and a connection to the Fire Star | pp. 197 – 1981 mark for what he wants1 mark for why |
| 20 | Where was Neale all this time? Why did he return? | Neale returned to his father’s castle to inform him of the Airl and Sir Garrick’s intention to betray the new King. He returns with his father to reveal them as traitors. He also wants to unearth the witches. | pp. 243 – 2441 mark for where he went and why1 mark for why he returns |
| 21 | Who does Neale stab with his knife? Who helps Reeve stop Neale? How do they do it? | He stabs Sir Garrick (p. 249) and Myra’s dog, Barron (p. 256). Kit and Reeve set a gaggle of angry geese on him to slow him down. | p. 256½ mark each for Garrick and Barron½ mark for Kit ½ mark for geese  |
| 22 | Who killed Sully? Why? | Lorimer killed Sullivan. Turns out he has many gambling debts and wants the Fire Star to help pay them.  | p. 2771 mark for Lorimer1 mark for his reasons |
| 23 | Where does Maven think the Fire Star is hidden at the end of the novel? Where does she actually locate it? | Maven thinks the jewel is hidden in one of the clay cider jugs that Sully gave Kit. It’s found in the other cider jug. | pp. 291 – 2941 mark for where she thinks it’s hidden1 mark for where it is |
| 24 | What will happen to the Fire Star now? | The Fire Star will remain in Airl Buckthorn’s castle kept safe, part of Lady Anice’s dowry. Hopefully it will continued to be passed through the youngest daughter’s line. | pp.300 – 301up to 2 points depending on depth of answer |