

**Subject: Contemporary British Literature.**

**Correction of the First Semester Exam  
2017-2018.**

The essay should discuss the following ideas:

- 1- The tone of the writer: it is a menacing and dark tone. This is displayed through many ways: the scab of the boy and how he deals with it, the colors of the carpet and how the boy interprets them till the end of the story.

Examples from the text:

a- "The risks were too far great for that".

b- "The mere thought of snakes sent a fine electricity of fear running like pins down the backs of his legs and under the soles of his feet".....

- 2- The Figurative language:

a- Metaphor: Example: " This deep curling river of black". This suggests how the colour black was scary for the child that he imagined it as being a deep river.

b- Simile: Example: "The black parts of the carpet are snakes, poisonous snakes, adders mostly, and cobras, thick like tree-trunks round the middle". Also this simile conveys how the boy imagines the black colour, and hence, he expresses his fear.

c- Personification: Example: " Another snake slid up noiselessly beside the first, raised its head, too heads now, too pairs of eyes staring at the foot, gazing at a little naked place just below the sandal strap where the skin showed through".....Again this personification reveals the boys frightened feelings from seeing the black colour in the carpet.

As a conclusion, the figurative language in this short story conveys an atmosphere of menace and fear which prevails throughout the whole story.

- 3- Through the tone and the figurative language, the writer Road Dahl conveys a view of life. He shows it as being insecure and scary and how man is doing his attempts to challenge it, but fails in the end. Thus, there is a dark view about man's capacity to go through the difficulties in this short story.