

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES GÉNÉRALES
Sessions 2023 – QUESTIONNAIRE ÉCRIT

Date :	04.03.23	Durée :	13:00 - 16:00	Numéro candidat :	
Discipline :	Module 1: Langues - Anglais		Section(s) :	GEA	

Part A Reading comprehension (20 marks)

In “The Little Mermaid” remake, Black girls and moms see themselves

By The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

Halle Bailey, a Black actress and singer, will play Ariel in a new remake of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" movie. It is set to be released in the spring of 2023.

5 Recently, Disney released a trailer for the film, showing Bailey as Ariel. Black parents across the country are capturing their daughters responding to the new trailer. Videos of children squealing with delight, dancing, tearing up or proclaiming, "She's brown like me," have gone viral, gaining millions of views on social media.

Precious Avery started recording as her 3-year-old, Emery, absorbed the trailer.

"I think she's brown," Emery said with a grin. "Brown Ariel!"

10 Emery said she loves Bailey's long hair and mermaid tail. It reminds her of her swim lessons.
A___

Her mother sees something bigger. It always made her "feel good" to see Black characters on television, said Avery, who is 33. Now her daughter was getting the experience.

Emotional Reactions To New Ariel

- 15 Parents say the videos highlight why it is important for kids to see people who look like them in movies and television shows. And for some Black moms, the moment was powerful in another way, allowing them to relive a piece of their childhood through a new lens.

Bailey replaces the redheaded cartoon from the 1989 Disney movie. The original rebellious underwater princess had enormous blue eyes and wore a purple bikini top made of seashells.

- 20 **B**___ For Bailey, "seeing these little babies' reactions makes me so emotional," she wrote in an Instagram post. "Thank you all for your unwavering support."

C___ Princess Tiana in "The Princess and the Frog" made history as the first Black Disney princess in 2009. And the 1997 remake of "Cinderella" featured Black actress Brandy Norwood in the lead role.

- 25 Twenty-six-year-old Dariana Fleming remembers how important it was for her to see Cinderella played by a Black woman as a child. Inspired by the videos of Black girls reacting to the "The Little Mermaid" teaser, she decided to make her own. Her daughters, 2-year-old Rylie and 4-year-old McKenzie, smiled at first, and then gasped and giggled as Bailey appeared on screen. **D**___

- 30 Ashley Potts, who is 26, says she doesn't talk about skin color with her 5-year-old daughter, London, but that it was clear she was shocked to see an Ariel that looked like her.

As she watched the trailer, once the toddler saw Ariel's face, she fell silent. "It was a natural reaction for her," Potts said. "I wanted to cry."

Critics Argue Ariel Should Be White

- 35 The outpouring of reactions from little Black girls has been a huge marketing boost for the film, but those feelings of delight and awe were not universal. Some critics on Twitter used #NotMyAriel and #NotMyMermaid hashtags to argue that the person chosen to play Ariel should have been white, like in the original animation.

Many of Bailey's fans used the same Twitter hashtags, along with #MyAriel, to come to her
40 defense. They noted that mermaids are mythical creatures that have appeared in legends and
folk tales across the world, including in the African diaspora. E____

Bailey isn't the only actor of color to be attacked for playing characters originally cast by white
actors or in predominantly white film series. John Boyega faced so much racist abuse from
fans when he was cast as Finn in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in 2015 that he told SiriusXM
45 he was not interested in returning to the "Star Wars" films. Leslie Jones and Kelly Marie Tran
received similar hate for their roles in the "Ghostbusters" reboot and "Star Wars: The Last
Jedi," respectively.

Disney's changes were long overdue, said Kaila Story, an associate professor in the
departments of Pan-African studies and women's, gender and sexuality studies at the
50 University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Shows with white casts have historically been presented as appropriate for all audiences, Story
said, while movies with Black actors and filmmakers were only targeted toward Black people.
Yet showcasing more characters of color in television and films is more reflective of what the
world looks like, she said.

55 Ariel in the new "The Little Mermaid" is different from some of the other non-white Disney
main characters, such as Pocahontas, because her story is "not going to have to be her
unpacking her racial identity," Story said.

Taking Representation For Granted

Adelia Chaiyakul, who is 31, watched the "The Little Mermaid" video with her 9-year-old
60 daughter, Ava. She told her mother she was famous at school after her reaction video, in which
she smiles and covers her mouth in shock upon seeing the new Ariel, went viral on TikTok.

Chaiyakul said that because she didn't see herself reflected in characters growing up, she
simply had to imagine. However in the comments of the viral TikTok video, she realized how
reaction videos like her daughter's allowed many white women to understand how much they
65 took for granted seeing themselves in white princesses and other characters.

This situation will change with the next generation, said Chaiyakul. "I kind of made it up in my mind that I was princess," she said, but her daughter "actually gets to see that she's a princess."

Reading comprehension questions

TASK 1 (___/5)

Choose which sentences (1-6) best fit into the gaps (a-e) in the text. There is one sentence which you do not need to use.

1. "The Little Mermaid" live-action film will not be the first Disney movie with a Black princess.
2. Instead of legs, she had a green fish tail.
3. That refers to people of African background scattered around the world.
4. Their reaction video to the new Black Ariel has been viewed on TikTok more than 2 million times.
5. "The Little Mermaid" is directed by Rob Marshall.
6. She knows all the Disney princesses and wants to live in a castle one day.

Write your answers here:

Gap in text:	A	B	C	D	E
Sentence:					

TASK 2 (___/3)

Decide if the statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS) in the text. For each statement, circle T, F or NS. Correct the statements that are false by copying the relevant passage from the text.

1. The whole world is happy that a Black actress is playing Arielle. T F NS

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2. John Boyega, Leslie Jones and Kelly Marie Tran are actors of color. T F NS

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3. Kaila Story believes everyone should watch the remake of
“The Little Mermaid”. T F NS

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TASK 3 (___/3)**Multiple choice questions (only one answer is correct).***i. According to the article, Disney has made earlier efforts to feature Black female leads.**Which paragraph BEST supports this idea?*

- A** Bailey replaces the redheaded cartoon from the 1989 Disney movie. The original rebellious underwater princess had enormous blue eyes and wore a purple bikini top made of seashells.
- B** Princess Tiana in "The Princess and the Frog" made history as the first Black Disney princess in 2009. And the 1997 remake of "Cinderella" featured Black actress Brandy Norwood in the lead role.
- C** The outpouring of reactions from little Black girls has been a huge marketing boost for the film, but those feelings of delight and awe were not universal. Some critics on Twitter used #NotMyAriel and #NotMyMermaid hashtags to argue that the person chosen to play Ariel should have been white, like in the original animation.
- D** Disney's changes were long overdue, said Kaila Story, an associate professor in the departments of Pan-African studies and women's, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Louisville.

ii. Which answer choice would BEST describe Ashley Potts' reaction to the new Ariel?

- A** Potts was happy the video she created helped market the new film.
- B** Potts said she was shocked to see an Ariel that looked like her.
- C** Potts said she does not discuss skin color with her daughter but was moved at her daughter's reaction to the new Ariel.
- D** Potts said seeing the new Ariel made her remember how important it was for her to see a Black Cinderella as a child.

iii. How is Dariana Fleming different from Ava Chaiyakul?

- A** Chaiyakul received abuse for being in the “Ghostbusters” reboot, and Fleming supported the critics.
- B** Chaiyakul supported the casting of Halle Bailey online, while Fleming criticized the casting online.
- C** Chaiyakul was inspired by seeing a Black Cinderella as a child, while Fleming was inspired by seeing a Black Ariel.
- D** Chaiyakul did not see characters like herself growing up, and Fleming saw a Black woman play Cinderella.

TASK 4 (___/5)

Identify the expressions or words which correspond to the following definitions. Give one word unless indicated otherwise.

1. planned to (II.1-20)
2. to almost start crying (2 words) (II.1-20)
3. strong and steady despite
opposition (II.21-40)
4. to take a short, quick breath, especially
because of surprise (II.21-40)
5. having been needed for a long time (II.41-60)

TASK 5 (___/4)***Please answer the questions in your own words .***

i. Explain in your own words what many Black parents did after the trailer for “The Little Mermaid” was released (0,5 for content, 0,5 for using own words).

ii. Explain in your own words why Kaila Story thinks “The Little Mermaid” remake is a good idea (1 mark for content, 1 mark for using own words).

iii. Explain in your own words why the TikTok reaction videos are important for white women according to Adelia Chaiyakul (0,5 mark for content, 0,5 mark for using own words).

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Part B **Essay (20 marks)**

Choose **one** of the following topics:

A

“Us white girls, who grew up with The Little Mermaid, deserved a true-to-color [i.e. white] Ariel. Disney, you made a huge mistake by hiring Halle Bailey. This is going in the TRASH”. To what extent do you agree with this opinion (posted on Twitter) that the skin colour of actors and actresses should not change in remakes of films?

Write a well-developed **opinion essay** of at least 250 words. Please indicate the word count at the end.

OR

B

Should books, films or even expressions which are nowadays thought to be discriminating or racist be forbidden? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of doing this.

Write a well-developed **pro/con essay** of at least 250 words. Please indicate the word count at the end.

Part C The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (20 marks)

Choose **one** of the following topics and write a well-developed **literary essay** of at least 250 words. Please indicate the word count at the end.

A

“And the whole time, everybody would be drinking booze and getting drunk and stupid and sad and mean. Yeah, doesn’t that make sense? How do we honour the drunken death of a young married couple? HEY, LET’S GET DRUNK!”

In your essay, explain which role alcohol plays in Junior’s and his tribe’s life. In which ways does it affect him and the others? What is his opinion about alcohol? Use concrete examples from the novel to illustrate your answer.

OR**B**

What does Junior learn during the novel? Explain by using concrete examples from the novel to support your answer.