

The following **example essay** was written by **Liz McConnell** of NSW for the 2013 FAA Interpretation Exam. It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and Astrological analysis. The style of essay and essay construction are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects . (eg. grammar, syntax and astrological synthesis) but is a good example of meeting the standard set for the exam. It can however be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays.

**Tess Cullen, Exam Board Director**

---

## **2013 Interpretation Exam**

### **SECTION 2 Question 1**

**Molly: born January 21 2010, 3.46pm, Hobart, Tasmania.**

*Molly is a very lively and engaging little girl with a strong will. Her mother shares with you that Molly recently asked, 'Who is the boss in this house Mummy, is it me?' At the moment Molly is an only child, but while her mother would like another child she is concerned that she would not be able to give Molly the attention and love she needs. She comes to you seeking insight into her daughter's nature to allow her to parent more effectively.*

*How can you address her concerns and offer supportive guidance?*

-----  
*Robert hand eloquently expresses, "children are adults in the process of becoming; ... they have exactly the same needs and drives as adults".<sup>1</sup>*

Molly's chart reveals that she resilient and determined child, driven by a need for love and encouragement. (She has a Taurian Ascendant plus five planets in fixed signs including Mars, the lead planet of her Locomotive chart shape). We see a drive for independence and the development of her own unique nature (Aquarian Sun) as well as a need for freedom to explore her world (Aries Moon, and 5 planets in the 9<sup>th</sup> house)

Even at this young age, we discover she wants to be respected and taken seriously (Strong Saturn in her chart, exalted in Libra, opposite the Moon, trine the Sun and Square Pluto-Mercury) and is extremely aware and perceptive of the energies around her (Mercury-Pluto in accidental dignity in the 8<sup>th</sup>). Through exploring these different drives within Molly we hope to equip her mother with the understanding she needs to make decisions regarding her family and how best to guide and nurture her daughter.

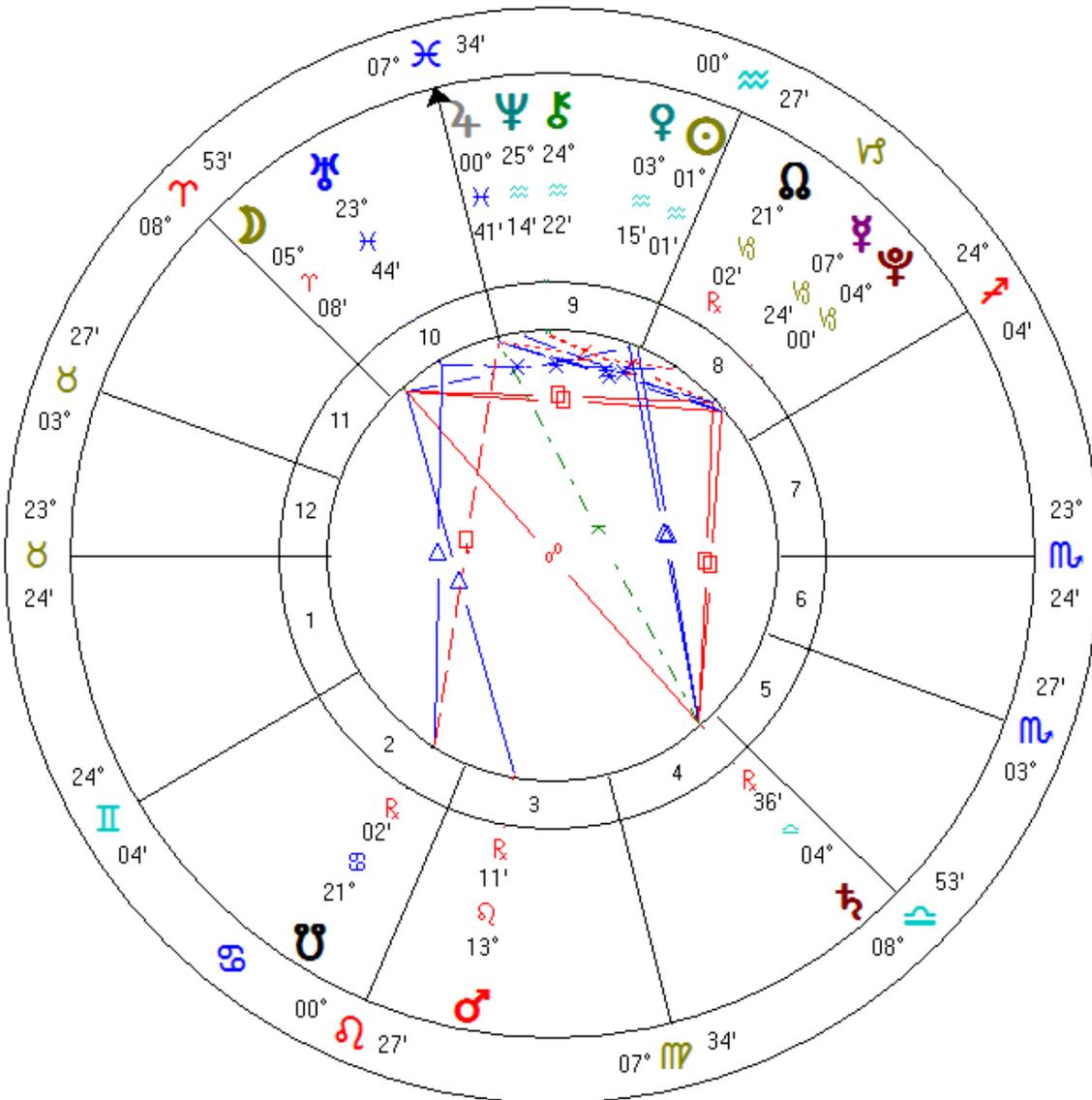
The first thing presented by the astrology is that Molly is a very strong and determined child who needs consistency and stability in her daily routine. (She has a predominance of fixed elements and Taurian Ascendant). She is probably particular about the order of things and may become fixated on particular

---

<sup>1</sup>(Hand, Planets in Youth, p.5 1977)

details such as how her toys are arranged and or what outfit she needs to wear. (This sense of order is how Molly orientates herself in the world and provides her with security and safety. In the best -case scenario it gives her endurance and strength however if she feels insecure, in effort to counteract this, she may become fixated and stuck. (Taurus Ascendant and fixed nature of chart).

Routine and consistency will benefit (Taurus) her however we would also expect that her patterns of behaviour might suddenly change from time to time (Uranus sextile Taurus ascendant and trine to Sun-Venus in Aquarius). For example she may go from regularly napping to suddenly stopping altogether. In these cases it is best to adapt to her new groove, as it might be very difficult to get her do otherwise.



Although Molly presents herself as a strong and robust child (Taurus Ascendant trine Sun and Venus ruler of Ascendant) she may approach new situations with a degree of caution, (Taurus Ascendant) and at times may feel shy (Chiron Square Ascendant) or unsure (Neptune Square Ascendant) or perhaps overwhelmed (Jupiter Square Ascendant). In these instances she needs time to evaluate, and process the situation to be comfortable enough to participate.

Security is very important to Molly and as she sees her possessions as an extension of her self she may also benefit from having a security blanket or special item that gives her a sense of safety. For this reason she may also be possessive of her toys so whilst learning to share is important, allowing her to keep monopoly over some special toys may make her feel more secure to share the others. (Taurus Ascendant)

Even at such a young age Molly knows what she wants and we can expect that as she grows she'll become more independent and develop more of her own distinct style. (As she grows her Aquarian Sun will become more evident). This aspect of Molly's nature is modeled on her experience of her father who she sees as independent (Aquarius), sociable (Saturn) and lovable man (Sun-Venus and Sun sextile the Moon) who provides her with safety and security (Sun trines Saturn in 4<sup>th</sup>). All qualities which she will seek to emulate herself. There is a possibility that he feels unobtainable to her in some way (Sun in detriment) however and that Molly seeks his approval (The sun is the depositor of Mars which is Retrograde). Like her father Molly will develop her individuality through her friendships (Sun Venus conjunction) and by understanding the world around her (Sun in the 9<sup>th</sup>). She may at times seem a little different from other children, and perhaps a little emotionally aloof. When other girls may want a doll to nurture she may want an animal farm to oversee. It is important to appreciate these differences rather than expect her to conform as in doing so may only foster a sense of alienation and perhaps rebellion.

As Molly is a strong and determined character, her parents may have difficulty in getting her to do what they want. It is important that her parents pick their battles as in these instances Molly may be very stubborn, and if they do not stand their ground Molly will choose not to listen in the future. As mentioned earlier Molly responds to consistency and if she learns from experience her mother will "stick to her guns" she will be more inclined to accept her authority. (Fixed Nature) In addition Molly's mother may be quite successful in influencing her through appealing to her sense of fairness and reason (Venus in Aquarius trine her Ascendant) and through encouragement and praise. (Mars in Leo) Phrases such as "It would be so amazing if you could do..." Or "let me see you do..." will challenge her to want to prove herself and gain respect and admiration.

Although a strong individual Molly also needs plenty of love and attention to develop her confidence so she feels comfortable in going after what she wants (Mars in Leo is Retrograde). Group activities (Mars rules 11<sup>th</sup>) such as dance and drama classes or sport will help her to express herself (Mars in 3<sup>rd</sup>) and build her confidence, which in turn will also assist all other aspects of her nature. (Mars is the driving planet of her Locomotive Chart)

In this light we see Molly as a performer with a natural drive to enact and express herself in a dramatic and exuberant way. (Leo ruling the 3<sup>rd</sup>) She asserts herself through expression so at times may be argumentative and dramatic in her displays of defiance. (Mars in Leo in the 3<sup>rd</sup>) This is also the part of her, which would be most noticeable in her interactions with siblings (3<sup>rd</sup>) and as Molly, in this instance is seeking to assert herself and her superiority; it is possible that there may be some conflict with a future brother or sister. Yet in considering the age difference and the fact that Molly is older, her natural superiority will probably be reinforced. The adulation of a younger sibling could provide the additional love and praise Molly needs to bolster her confidence and she may step up into her natural role as a leader (Leo) in a caring capacity (Mars Trine Moon)

In exploring other elements of Molly's nature we see a much dynamic action oriented energy, which is expressed through her need for freedom (Aries Moon). Here we see the expression of Molly as the "free child", her confidence supported by her strong will. (Moon Trine Mars) She probably views her mother (Moon) as a courageous figure (Aries) in the world (10<sup>th</sup> house) and this inspires her to take the initiative to want to explore and conquer (Aries Moon in 10<sup>th</sup>). Molly may also be quite competitive and would fight to get her needs met (Moon-Mars). This is a fiery and action orientated energy, (cardinal fire)

which may find an outlet through sport and her probable good athletic ability (Moon in Aries Trine Mars). This is a child who will climb to the top of the playground and in the process she will build self worth and value (Moon Rulership is intercepted in the 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Whilst Molly does need strong boundaries (Moon-Saturn) it is also important that she is allowed her fair amount of freedom. (Moon is opposite Saturn). Molly will enjoy challenging herself (Aries) and testing her own boundaries (Saturn) in terms of her physical safety (Moon) and in doing so will gain a sense of being secure in the world (4<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> axis)

In addition to this free, spirited aspect of Molly the astrology also reveals a more serious, deeper side to her nature; here we meet “Molly the little grown up” (Moon-Pluto- Saturn) and later on, in terms of how she thinks and communicates we shall also meet her as “Molly the little professor” (Saturn-Pluto-Mercury) Despite Molly’s young age she also has a very powerful energy which some may describe as an old soul. (Moon-Pluto) She is perceptive to the energies around her and forms deep attachments for things she cares about. (Moon-Pluto). At times she may become overwhelmed by her feelings (Moon-Pluto) and be prone to tantrums (this is especially likely when we take into account her Aries Moon in aspect to Mars). In the event that this does occur, it is best to allow her the space to process and absorb the experience in her own time (8<sup>th</sup> house).

Another theme expressed here is a drive to be important, and achieve and gain responsibility (Saturn). Even though this can only be expressed by Molly as a three year old, she conscientiously (Capricorn) strives to be responsible and grown up; a “big girl who wants to be appreciated for her efforts (Moon-Saturn) In her own youthful way, she wants to be independent, to act on her own (Saturn) and to be valued for her contribution (Venus trine Saturn) and it comes as no surprise she asks who is the boss in her house (Saturn in the 4<sup>th</sup>).

It is important that Molly is able to challenge herself (Aries Moon) and feel a sense of achievement (Saturn) as through doing so, she will bolster her confidence and dispel any fears or sense of inadequacy (Saturn) that could develop. The key is to find a balance between the expression of free child and the little grown-up, allowing room for both expressions.

It is also important to be aware of what expectations (Saturn) are placed upon Molly, especially as she gets older where she may appear more mature and capable than she actually is. It is possible that Molly may disconnect from her emotions (Moon) as her vulnerability may get in the way of achievement (Saturn). Talking about how she feels and finding an avenue for emotional release is important. Once again physical activity, perhaps competitive sport may provide a solution. (Moon in Aries trine Mars) It is also important to be mindful that Molly may feel rejected when being disciplined (Moon –Saturn opposition) therefore ensure she understands it is her action not her that are the problem.

At age three, indulging Molly that she is a big girl and including her in household chores will encourage this energy to be channeled as responsible behavior as opposed to bossy (Saturn-Pluto). This energy may also be constructively expressed through the role of being an older sibling (Moon-Saturn). Through helping her mother care for the younger child Molly may feel this sense of importance we have been talking about.

As mentioned earlier, this drive for depth (Pluto) and responsibility (Saturn) is expressed through Molly the “little professor archetype” as it flavours the way Molly thinks, learns and communicates (Saturn square Pluto-Mercury conjunction). She is deliberate and serious in her thinking processes (Mercury-Saturn), and whilst she may not be the quickest learner (Mercury Saturn) she has a powerful (Mercury-Pluto) and expansive mind (Mercury sextiles Jupiter). Molly is primarily practically minded and learns through experience. When following instructions she will want to “do it” for herself rather than just listen or watch (Mercury in Capricorn).

She will learn in her own time (Saturn) and when she has absorbed something she will remember it. Promises offered lightly will not be forgotten!

In addition the astrology reveals a depth to her perception; she has a detectives mind, deep and penetrating, she wants to get to the bottom of things. (Mercury-Pluto) She may talk to the point of exhaustion (Mercury is in cardinal sign) and ask many questions however she may be quite secretive about what is going for her (Mercury and Pluto are in the 8<sup>th</sup>). It is important to try and draw her out and talk to her about her feeling and what is going on for her, as there is a possibility she may be prone to worrying. (Mercury-Pluto squares her Moon).

It is very important to be honest with Molly as she has an uncanny ability to discern truth and will know when she is being deceived. Honesty and straightforward answers are the best approach, as she will sense it when something is being covered up. It is also likely she will question taboos, and will not stop until she feels satisfied with the answer. (Mercury Pluto)

A good way to find expression for this energy is through giving Molly the responsibly (Saturn) to care for and look after a pet (Pluto rules 6<sup>th</sup>), or perhaps collect mice or silkworms where she study the process of life.

As her mother is considering having another child I would suggest she be open with Molly if she chooses to do so and include her in the process of pregnancy. (Mercury-Pluto) There is the possibility that Molly may be possessive of her mothers' attention (Moon-Pluto) however this may be reduced through including her in the process (and even possibly at the birth) (8<sup>th</sup>) and talking to her about how she feels (Moon Pluto) and what it means to be a big sister. (Moon-Saturn)

In conclusion, whilst another child may bring challenges for Molly's mothers attention (Mercury square Moon), her independent nature, (Aquarian Sun) her desire to feel important (Pluto-Saturn) and her natural propensity to take responsibility (Saturn) may be constructively expressed in role as Big sister.

(Word Counts 2420)

### **Bibliography**

Hand, R. (1977). *Planets in Youth*. Rockport, Massachusetts, USA.

Marks, T. (1985). *The astrology of Self Discovery*. CRCS.

Sasportas, H. (1985). *The Twelve Houses*. UK: The Aquarian Press.

Tompkins, S. (1989). *Aspects in Astrology*. London, UK: Rider.