Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**NOTES : Zoos**

**Answer the following:**

1. **What does the writer often wonder? How much money does he think is spent on zoos?**

Ans: The writer often wonders how much food is fed to the animals in the zoological gardens of America every week and tries to figure out what the public gets in return for the cost that is incurred for the same.

1. **Which two examples does he cite to show the exorbitant amount spent on animal food?**

Ans: The writer gives the example of the amount of meat a lion downs in a single meal and the tons of hay an elephant dispatches in a month.

1. **According to the writer what are the two main reasons for establishing zoos?**

Ans: According to the writer the two main reasons for establishing zoos are to provide easy jobs to a horde of superintendents and keepers and to put up an idiotic show of the beasts to gape at for the least intelligent minority of the population. And, the young of the species may be instructed in the methods employed by chimpanzees, jaguars, hyenas and polar bears in ridding themselves of lice.

1. **How does the writer argue with those who claim that zoos are educational?**

Ans: The writer plainly refuses the argument that zoos are educational. He says that a person can get only as much education from zoos as he can get from a fire parades or displays of sky-rockets as it is only a form of foolish amusement. Just by watching an old feeble lion snoring in its cage or a family of monkeys fighting for peanuts no useful information can be gained.

1. **According to the writer, what is the maximum useful instruction that can be imparted?**

Ans: According to the writer, the maximum useful instruction that can be imparted is probably the stripes of a certain sort of a tiger run one way and the stripes of another sort some other way, that hyenas and polecats smell terrible and that the Latin name of the raccoon is Procyon Lotor.

1. **Does the writer agree that zoos have scientific values? What are his arguments?**

Ans: No. The writer does not agree that zoos have scientific values. He says that certain animals do help in understanding the anatomy, physiology of man and to certain extent pathology. But these studies cannot be made by just watching them in their cages through a safe distance. No dissection or experiments can be performed in the zoo. Further even after the animals in the zoo die, they are of no use to scientists as their carcasses are not handed to them for autopsy but stuffed and placed in museums.

1. **According to the writer, where is the alleged wisdom of the zoo scientist exhibited?**

Ans: According to the writer, the alleged wisdom of the zoo scientist is exhibited not in the groves of actual learning but in the yellow journals.

1. **What are the writer’s views regarding the knowledge of animal behaviour in zoos?**

Ans: The writer believes that zoos produce little or no knowledge about animal behaviour. This is obvious as the animals are not in their natural surroundings and therefore will behave differently. For instance, a scholar studying the habits of a giraffe by observing him in the zoo will conclude that it leads a sedentary life and is always melancholic beast that stands immovable for hours at a time feeding on hay and cabbage.

1. **According to the writer what is the true utility of the zoo? How should the tax payers be saved?**

Ans: According to the writer the true utility of the zoo is only entertainment for the unintelligent people, children, their nursemaids and for the visiting yokels The tax payers should not be forced to spend their hard-earned money on this futile venture. The people who draw any entertainment value from it should be combated and not encouraged at public expense.

1. **What sort of man is mentally weak, according to the writer? What should be done to his mental weakness?**

The sort of a man who likes to spend his time watching a cage of monkeys chase one another, or a lion gnaw its tail or a lizard catch flies is precisely the sort of man whose mental weakness should be combated at the public expense and not fostered.

1. **Who is such a man?**

He is a public liability and society should seek to improve him. Instead of that, we spend a lot of money to feed his degrading appetite and further paralyse his mind.

1. **In what way does the author describe the keepers?**

The author says that the keepers can be assumed as men of delicate natures and ardent zoophiles which can be considered as safe as assuming that the keepers of a prison are all sentimentalists and weep for the sorrows of their charges. It is simple that the work they do involved an endless war upon the native instincts of the animals.

1. **What examples does the writer give to convey the fact that we are robbing animals of their rights by keeping them in the zoos?**

Ans: The writer says that sadly we have deprived the animals of their right to habitat by keeping them confined in zoos. We have robbed the tiger of its prowess over the jungle, the monkeys of the trees, an eagle of its flight, a seal of its Arctic ice, the hippopotamus of its soft wallow, the buffalo of its open range, the lion of its kingship and the birds of their air.