Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Ant-Lion, Where the Mind is without fear**

1. Whom is the poem addressed to? How is it evident? 2

Ans. The poem is addressed to the God. It is evident as the poet mention my Father, which begins with the capital letter F.

1. What is meant by ‘narrow domestic walls’? What happens due to them? 3

Ans. Narrow domestic walls refer to the superstitions, narrow outlook and beliefs of people. This has led individuals to become self-centered and also made their hearts small and intolerant.

People have lost faith in one another, leading to fragmenting the world into small pieces.

1. Explain: ‘dead habit.’ 3

Ans. Dead habit means meaningless traditions. These futile traditions shouldn’t let our sense of rationality and logic wither away. We must avoid being ruled by old blind customs and traditions which are baseless.

1. What kind of heaven does the poet wish his country to wake up into? 4

Ans. The poet wishes his country to wake up into the heaven of freedom. This new light would bring in truth, enlightenment for the countrymen. In this new light the countrymen would see things clearly and also let go of age-old beliefs and superstitions which are hindering the growth of these countrymen. The poet dreams of a heaven where countrymen would live with dignity and self-respect. The land will flourish with men and women brimming with values like honesty, hard work and truthfulness. It is then that our country would be a paradise of freedom.

1. Which activity of Morvenna did her brother oppose in the beginning? Why? 2

Ans. Morvenna was trying to push the ant up the shifting sand-slope of the pit by suddenly thrusting the end of a twig. Max, her brother, lying opposite her, filled his cheeks with air and blew hard as he wanted to see what happens when the ant-lion attacks the little ant.

1. What happened after Max brought the meat-ant to the pit? 3

Ans. After Max had brought the meat-ant to the pit, Max shook the twig hard over the pit but the ant wouldn’t leave. It was obstinate and it clung to the twig. That made Max angry and determinedly he finally dislodged it with a blade of grass.

1. Describe the final struggle between the ant-lion and its prey. 4

Ans. As the meat-ant grew weaker and slower, his struggle was more spasmodic. The ant-lion released meat-ant’s leg and attacked for the ant’s body. He seized it by the abdomen. There was a wild scurry in the pit now, the ant rearing in the fountaining sand.

1. Was Max guilty? Give evidences to support your answer. 4

Ans. Yes, Max was guilty. It is evident as

a. He refused to get Harry down and show the ant-lion to him

b. He avoided looking at the pit or Morvenna

c. He said ‘Enough is enough’

d. Max detached himself from the scene, from the afternoon, from Morvenna and

ran faster and faster.

e. He stopped far away from the pit.