Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Question Bank: THE VET MAKES AN IMPRESSION**

1. **What did the narrator hardly notice? When?**

**Ans:** The narrator hardly noticed the passage of the weeks as he rattled along the moorland roads on his daily rounds.

1. **What would happen on most of the days? What surprised the narrator?**

**Ans:** On most of the days he would have a puncture. The tyres were nearly worn through on all the wheels yet it would take him anywhere at all.

1. **Which refinement on the car is mentioned? Why is it called so?**

**Ans:** One of the refinements on the car was a rusty sunshine roof. It was called so because it grated dismally whenever the narrator would slide it back.

1. **How was the experience of driving while keeping the sun-roof and the windows open? How was it on the wet day?**

**Ans:** Whenever the narrator would keep the sunroof and the windows open, he would experience the delicious air swirling about him. On wet days too, the narrator would not close the roof because the rain would anyway drip through the joints and formed pools on his lap and the passenger seat.

1. **Which skill in driving was developed by the narrator? What was considered as a mistake? Why?**

**Ans:** The narrator developed a great skill in driving around the puddles in a zig-zag way. To drive through them was a mistake, as the muddy water fountained up through the gaps in the floorboards.

1. **What rivaled the farmers?**

**Ans:** Long days in the open would give a tan to the narrator which rivaled the farmers.

1. **What was not considered as a punishment? Where? Who gave the narrator a company?**

**Ans:** Mending a puncture was not considered a punishment on the high, unfenced roads with the wheeling curlews for company and the wind bringing the scents of flowers and trees up from the valleys.

1. **How would the narrator feel after sitting on the crisp grass?**

**Ans:** The narrator would feel calm and peaceful as if it was like taking time out of his life. He would get time to be introspective, think about his problems objectively and assess his progress. For him everything was so different that it confused him. He thought about his life that was different from the city-life, he had a sense of release from exams and study. He also thought of the job and its daily challenge and his boss.

1. **Describe Siegfried Farnon.**

**Ans:** Siegriedd Farnon was an absent-minded veterinary doctor. He would charge round the practice with fierce energy from dawn till dark. It wasn’t surely for money as he treated it with little respect. When the bills were paid, the cash went into the pot. He would simply grab a handful when he wanted it. His pockets would bulge with loose and balled up notes and whenever he pulled a thermometer, the notes would fly around him in a cloud.

1. **When would Siegfried take a break from work? How?**

**Ans:** After a week or two of headlong rush at the practice, the doctor would suddenly disappear maybe for the evening or overnight and often without saying where he was going.

1. **Why had Mr Heaton of Bronsett called the narrator? What did his boss tell him?**

**Ans:** Mr Heaton of Bronsett had called the narrator to perform a post mortem on a dead sheep. His boss i.e. Mr Siegfried told the narrator to go along with him as things were quiet that morning and he believed that the narrator was taught a pretty good post mortem procedure. So, the vet doctor wanted to see the narrator in action.

1. **What happened after the car was swung left into a gated lane till they reached outside the farmhouse?**

**Ans:** After the car was swung left into a gated lane, the narrator asked Siegfried where they were going as Heaton lived at the other end of the village. Siegfried opposed and said that the narrator had probably mentioned Seaton. The narrator tried to defend and clarify but Siegfried remained firm and replied that he was right there when the narrator spoke to the man and he had distinctly heard the narrator say the name ‘Seaton’. The narrator tried to argue but the car was tearing down the lane and Siegfried’s jaw was jutting to which the narrator decided to let him find it for himself.

1. **What did Siegfried do first after reaching the farmhouse? What happened next?**

**Ans:** After reaching the farmhouse, Siegfried left his seat and was rummaging for a post-mortem knife in the boot before the car had stopped shuddering. He doesn’t get one and decides to borrow something from the house.

1. **Who answered the door bell? What was asked to her? How did she react?**

**Ans:** The farmer’s wife answered the door bell. She was asked if she had a carving knife. The good lady raised her eyebrows and asked again to reconfirm. Siegfried confirmed that he wanted a carving knife that was a good sharp one.

1. **How did the lady’s children react to the demand that Siegfried had made?**

**Ans:** The lady’s children and the woman were heard whispering and muttering. After which the children’s head peeped out at intervals to get a quick look at Siegfried was stamping irritably on the step.

1. **Who brought the knife out? How?**

**Ans:** One of the daughters of the lady brought the knife. She brought it very timidly holding out a long dangerous looking knife.

1. **What was the second thing that Siegfried had asked for? Why?**

**Ans:** The second thing that Siegfried had asked for was a steel. He asked for it as the knife wasn’t sharp and he required it to sharpen it.

1. **Who brought the steel? How did she come?**

**Ans:** Another young girl was pushed round the door. She inched her way up to Siegfried, gave him the steel at arm’s length and dashed back to safety.

1. **Mention in brief how Siegfried behaved while sharpening the knife.**

**Ans:** Siegfried prided himself on his skill at sharpening a knife. It was something he really enjoyed. As he honed the knife on the steel, he warmed to his work and finally burst into song. There was only the sound of a ring of steel on steel backed by the tuneless singing. There were silent intervals when he tested the edge carefully. Then the noise would start again.

1. **Where did Siegfried peer after finishing the job? Whom did he ask for?**

**Ans:** After completing the job to his satisfaction, he peered inside the door. He asked for the lady’s husband.

1. **What did Siegfried do after receiving no response? Who accompanied him?**

**Ans:** After receiving no response, Siegfried strode into the kitchen waving the gleaming blade in front of him. The narrator accompanied the doctor.

1. **Who was inside the kitchen? What were they doing?**

**Ans:** Mrs Seaton and her daughters were cowering in the far corner staring at Siegfried with large, frightened eyes.

1. **How did Siegfried ask after entering the kitchen? How does the confusion enfold at the end of the story?**

**Ans:** With a sweeping gesture of the knife, he asked Mrs Seaton and her daughters if he could get started with his work. To which Mrs Seaton, after drawing her family close to her, asked what he wanted to start. When Siegfried says that he wanted to P.M. the dead sheep, the confusion ends after explanations and apologies.

1. **What stern advice was given to the narrator at the end? Does it have a humorous touch to it?**

**Ans:** A stern advice is given to the narrator by his absent-minded boss that James has to be more careful in future as it would create a very bad impression. Yes, it does have a humorous touch because the narrator had very clearly mentioned the confusion and how they were going to the wrong place. But Siegfried’s absent-minded behavior creates the confusion.