Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Lost Dances of Cranes**

1. Whose fields are empty now? What does the word ‘fields’ refer to?

Ans: The fields of the cranes are empty now. The fields refer to the wetlands which are the habitat of the cranes.

1. Explain : only your ghosts dance

Ans: Here the poet is referring to the fact that cranes are an endangered species as their habitat has been encroached upon by the cities that have been raised on it.

Thus one can no more see the cranes dancing . Only the memories of their dances remain.

1. What does ‘cranes of another kind’ refer to?

Ans: The ‘cranes of another kind’ refer to machines that are used at construction sites.

1. What is the difference between the dance of the live cranes and the ‘other’ cranes?

Ans: The dance of the live cranes is a part of their mating rituals which results in reproduction whereas the dance of the cranes gives rise to the concrete jungle. The rise in the cities is at the cost of the dwellings of the cranes causing their extinction. So while one dance gives life the other one takes it away.

1. What memories of the ‘dancing crane’ are there currently? Who watches those memories?

Ans: Currently one can see the dancing cranes in old video footages. Over time the videos have also faded. The urban people living in the new cities watch those memories.

1. What do people in the new cities marvel at? What does this say about them?

Ans: The people in the new cities marvel at the dances of the cranes which are only seen in old videos. This shows that these people are not worried as to why they can’t see the live dances. They are neither aware nor care about the dwindling species of the fauna of our planet.

1. Explain : a fading crackle of your energy

Ans: The dance of the crane was very energetic. As the species are becoming extinct , their dance is only seen in old video footages. These videos are so old and the print is faded. Thus the poet says that these videos are ‘a fading crackle of your energy’ referring to the energy of the cranes.

1. Bring out the difference in the approach of the poet and that of the people regarding their reaction to the lessening in the number of the cranes?

Ans: The poet is an environmentalist who admires the live dance of the cranes and is now worried due to the lessening of the species. On the other hand the people who are living on the very land of the cranes, which has been turned into a concrete jungle, enjoy watching their dances on a video

1. Identify the figure of speech in the following lines:
2. will watch to marvel

Ans: Alliterarion : The sound ‘w’ is repeated.

1. at the wonders of the world

Ans:Alliteraion : The sound ‘w’ is repeated.