Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Notes : Sayonara**

Std: VIII-EURO

**Answer the following:**

1. **Who does ‘I’ refer to in the first line? Where was the person ? Who else was with the person?**

Ans: ‘I’ refers to the narrator , Anne Lindbergh. She was in a stateroom in a boat at the Shanghai port. Her husband, Charles Lindbergh was with her.

1. **What could the narrator hear from her room?**

Ans: The narrator could hear the other passengers who were on the deck of the boat . They were saying ‘Sayonara’ the Japenese goodbye to their relatives and friends who had come to see them off and were on the dock.

1. **Who were most of the people on the boat? Where were they going and from where?**

Ans: There was a boatload of Japanese people on the board travelling home to Japan from China.

1. **What happened as the boat left the Shanghai port?’**

Ans: As the boat left the Shanghai port, there were shouts of ‘Sayonara’, the Japanese goodbye. The gangplank was pulled up and the chains made a clanking sound. The warning whistle to indicate that the boat is about to leave was blown. The voices of the people on the dock and in the boat rose to a flurry like a flock of frightened birds. But above all the noises one voice was clearly heard – Sayonara.

1. **How does the writer describe the sound of ‘Sayonara’? Why could she hear it so distinctly?**

Ans: The writer says that the sound of ‘Sayonara’ could be clearly heard above all the conglomerate (the combination) of different sounds. It was one voice, clean and sharp . It was an individual sound standing out but also representative of the crowd. The writer compares the sound to that one face of the person who stands in the front line of the whole crowd representing it.

The writer could hear the ‘Sayonara’ so distinctly perhaps because it was the only word of Japanese she understood.

1. **Where did the writer and her husband go from Shanghai? How?**

Ans: The writer and her husband reached Japan from Shanghai and then crossed Japan by train from the southern tip to Yokohama, where they boarded the boat for their homeland, America.

1. **Describe the scene on the railway platform.**

Ans: There was a lot of activity on the railway platform. There was the sound of the clatter of wooden clogs ( footwear) on the platform , the kimonos – the traditional Japenese dress were fluttering , the babies were on their mothers’ backs, men were carrying four or five small bundles tied up in different coloured furoshiki, old women were walking with sticks which made a knocking sound and they were wearing huge hats of straw and a man was shouting his wares to be sold. Here too the sound of ‘Sayonara’ was echoing clearly.

1. **Write a few lines about the Japanese family that boarded the train .**

Ans: A Japanese family which boarded the train occupied two long seats raised on a slight platform. It comprised of the mother and nurse, who were dressed in a kimonos, the father was in a Western business suit and two little girls in green challis suits with Irish- lace collars and a baby in woollens.

1. **What all did the writer say a good bye to ?**

Ans: The writer said a goodbye to the rice fields terraced up a narrow gully in the hills; to thatched roofs and paper walls; to the grain crop which was laden and bent the grain; to lotus leaves which were like elephant ears ; to a white road leading up a hill to a pine grove ; to the little towns the train was passing through which had narrow streets full of local shops; to the blue umbrellas in the rain and the little boys chasing dragon flies.

1. **Describe the unique goodbye as the boat pulled out at Yokohama port.**

Ans: The crowd of Japanese which were leaning over the rails of the decks , shot twirling coloured paper ribbons across to those who had come to say a ‘Sayonara’. Both held the ribbons on either ends. This looked like a brilliant , multi-coloured web spun between the ship and the shore. This web along with the conversation looked like a strong band connecting both the parties – the travellers and those at the dock. The band which was intricately patterned and rich in texture which held both together. Then as the boat moved started moving ahead the ribbons tautened and finally snapped and the broken ends twirled off idly into the water floating away with the unfinished ends of sentences.

1. **Bring out the difference between Sayonara and ethe other form of goodbyes mentioned in the write up.**

**OR**

**Why does the writer think Sayonara is the most beautiful goodbye?**

Ans: The ‘Auf Wiedersehens and Au revoirs ‘mean ‘till we meet again’. According to the writer it is like cheating someone by making a promise to meet again without being sure of doing so. Farewell means telling the person to go out in the world and do ( fare) well. It sounds like a father’s goodbye which has an element of encouragement and admonition. It includes hope and faith but does not say anything about parting. A ‘Goodbye’ and ‘Adios’ is like a mother’s goodbye as it is a prayer which means ‘you must not go – I cannot bear to see you going and if you must go then God will be with you’.

As compared to all the other goodbyes which say either too much or too little, Sayonara is the best as it is a simple acceptance of the fact that one must leave. Whatever emotions are there in a goodbye are banked up behind it but the word itself is a simple unspoken goodbye.