Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: Gogol’s First Day**

**Answer the following according to the marks :**

1. **Why was Gogol in tears? (2)**

Ans: Gogol’s parents told him that he would be called Nikhil in school. On hearing this , he was shocked and upset. He did not want to be called by a new name that too by outsiders. That is why Gogol was in tears.

1. **Why did Gogol not want a new name? (2)**

Ans: Gogol did not want a new name because he was afraid to be Nikhil. He did not know Nikhil and Nikhil did not know him.

1. **What did his parents tell Gogol about his new name? (3)**

Ans: Gogol’s parents told him that the new name, Nikhil , will only be used by the teachers and children at school but they would call him Gogol. Moreover they explained to him that they too had two names like all their other Bengali friends and that it was a part of growing up for all Bengalis.

1. **What did his parents do to get Gogol acquainted with his new name? What assurance did they give him? (2)**

Ans: Gogol’s parents wrote down the new name on a sheet of paper and asked him to copy it over ten times. They assured him that for them he only be Gogol.

1. **Who greeted Gogol and his father at the school? What did she ask Ashoke to do? (2)**

Ans: At school , Gogol and his father were greeted by the secretary, Mrs McNab. She asked Ashoke to fill out a registration form.

1. **What was the name of the principal? Describe her in brief. (3)**

Ans: The name of the principal was Candace Lapidus. She was a tall, slender woman with short white-blond hair.

1. **How did Gogol react when the principal welcomed him? How did she pronounce his name? (2)**

Ans: When the principal welcomed him, Gogol looked down at his sneakers (shoes). The way she pronounced his new name was different from the way parents said it, the second part of it longer, sounding like ‘heel’.

1. **How did the principal try to put Gogol at ease? (2)**

Ans: In order to put Gogol at ease, the principal Mrs Lapidus, bent down so that her face was level with his and then she put her hand on his shoulder spoke to him.

1. **When Gogol did not respond to the principal’s questions, what did she think? What did Ashoke do to put her fears at rest? (3)**

Ans: When Gogol did not respond to the principal’s questions, she thought that he did not follow English. Ashoke wanted to put her fears at rest so he addressed his son in careful accented English and told him to answer Mrs. Lapidus.

1. **What was Mrs Lapidus’ confusion over the names of Gogol? (4)**

Ans: Mrs Lapidus was confused because Gogol had two names unlike the other two Indian children in the school. She wondered whether Nikhil was a middle name or a nickname.. When Gogol’s father said it was neither a middle name nor a nickname, she was further confused.

1. **Before leaving, what does Ashoke tell Gogol in order to put all the principal’s doubts to rest? (2)**

Ans: Before leaving Ashoke bent down and spoke calmly and quietly to Gogol in Bengali and told him not to be scared. Raising Gogol’s chin with his finger, Ashoke told him that he was a big boy and that he should answer when Mrs Lapidus asks a question.

1. **Mrs Lapidus says ‘’Then it’s settled’’. What was settled? How did she settle the matter? (4)**

Ans: It was settled that Gogol will be called by the same name and not a new name. Mrs Lapidus had asked him whether he wanted to be called by another name. When he said no , Mrs Lapidus assured him that he would be called Gogol and told him to write his name on a piece of paper.

1. **How did Gogol write his name on the piece of paper that Mrs Lapidus handed over to him? (2)**

Gogol picked up a pencil , gripped it tightly and formed the letters of his name , the only word he had learned to write from memory but wrote the ‘L’ backward due to nerves.

1. **What comment did Mrs Lapidus make on seeing Gogol’s name? What did she do? (3)**

Ans: On seeing his name, Mrs Lapidus complimented Gogol on his handwriting saying that it was beautiful penmanship. Then she tore up the old registration form and asked Mrs McNab to type a new one.

1. **What did Gogol take home at the end of his first day? What did his parents think of it? (2)**

Ans: At the end of his first day, Gogol took home a letter from Mrs Lapidus to his parents explaining that due to their son’s preference , he will be known as Gogol at school. Gogol’s parents were a little upset and wondered why their preference was not considered.

1. **Mention the different ways in which Gogol wrote his name. (3)**

Ans: Gogol wrote his name of top of sheets of scratchy, pale yellow paper as well as on the front covers of his textbooks. Gogol carved his name with paper clips into the bottoms of clay cups and bowls. When he made paintings, he left his signature in fat brush stroke below them.

1. **Which was Gogol’s favourite hour of the week? What would he do during that hour? (3)**

Ans: The art class was Gogol’s favourite hour of the week. During that hour , he would carve his name with paper clips into the bottoms of clay cups and bowls. He pasted uncooked pasta on to cardboard and left his signature in fat brush strokes below paintings.

1. **What was peculiar about Gogol’s creations? Why did he do so? (2)**

Ans: Gogol would proudly sign his work as ‘Gogol G’ in the lower right-hand corner . It was peculiar because he added a ‘G’ as if there was a need to distinguish him from any other Gogol in the school.