Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Gift of Magi, The Monkey’s Paw**

1. How much money did Della have with her for Jim’s present? What kind of gift did she want to gift Jim? 2

Ans. Della had one dollar and eighty seven cents for Jim’s present. She wanted to gift him something nearly good enough. Something that was worth the honour of belonging to him.

1. Describe the looking-glass between the windows. How could a person see himself? 3

Ans. The looking-glass between the windows was very narrow. A person could see only a little of himself at a time. But, if he was thin and moved very quickly, he might be able to get a good view of himself.

1. Describe Jim’s gift. How was it similar to his personality? 3

Ans. Della decided to gift Jim a gold watch chain that was made very simply. It was plain and simple but its value was in its rich and pure material. Jim and the chain, both had quietness and value.

1. Why does the writer compare Della and Jim to the ‘Magi’? 4

Ans. The Magi are the three wise men who brought gifts for baby Jesus. In the story, Della and Jim sold the most valuable things that they had in order to buy gifts for the person they love. They have shown the biggest act of love which is self-sacrifice to make the one love happy. They also understand that love is the greatest gift that they can give each other, which is why the writer has compared them to the Magi.

1. Describe Sergeant Major-Morris. What happened after he took the proffered seat by the fire? 3

Ans. Sergeant-Major Morris was a tall, burly man, beady of eye and rubicund of visage. After taking his proffered seat, he watched his host get whiskey and tumblers out and stand a small copper kettle on fire. At the third glass, he began to talk and told the family stories from distant parts, wild scenes, of wars and plagues and strange people.

1. What was special about the monkey’s paw? What other details have been given about it? 3

Ans. The monkey’s paw had a spell put on it by an old fakir. He wanted to show that those who interfered with fate did so to their sorrow. He put a spell on it so that three separate men each have three wished from it.

1. Did the Whites believe that the story about the paw could be true? How do we know? 4

Ans. Initially the Whites didn’t believe in the story about the paw being true. We see Mrs. White saying that the entire story about Monkey’s Paw sounds like Arabian Nights and mockingly she asks if she could get four pairs of hands to decrease her load of work. The husband removed the talisman from the pocket and the three burst into laughter.

1. What was the old man’s last wish? Was it fulfilled? Give evidences from the story to justify. 3

Ans. The old man’s third wish was probably about ceasing of knocking on the door or disappearance of the spirit. Yes it was fulfilled, as the moment he breathed his third and the last wish frantically, the knocking ceased. He heard the chair drawn back and the door opened.