Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: King Lear

1. What is the question Lear asks his daughter before he makes the divison of his kingdom final? What does he expect of his daughters?

Ans: Lear demands that his daughters affirm their love for him. He asks, ‘He asks, “which of you shall say doth us most?”’. Lear expects his three daughters to offer him rivalling speeches and declarations of love and affection.

2. What is the opening dialogue of King Lear?

Ans: King Lear asks for the map and says that he will divide his kingdom which his fast intent to shake all cares and business from his old age. He wishes to confer them on your strengths and to crawl unburdened toward death.

3. What does he say to the Duke of Albany and Cornwell?

Ans: King Lear told the Duke of Albany and Cornwall that they are equal and no one is less loving son than the other. King Lear is going to publish a constant will in which future strife may be prevented due to his daughters’ several dowers.

4. What is Goneril’s answer to her father’s question?

Ans: She says that she loves her father as a child ever loved or father found. A love that makes breath poor and speech unable. Beyond all manner she loved him.

5. What is conferred upon Goneril by Lear?

Ans: He gives away all the bounds with plenteous rivers and wide-skirted mead. The lady i.e. his daughter, Albany’s and her children will inherit a share of his property and that would be perpetual.

6. What is Cordelia’s answer to Lear’s question and why is Lear outraged by Cordelia’s answer?

Ans: Cordelia declares that she has ‘nothing’ to say to her father in order to deserve her inheritance. She also explains that she only lover Lear ‘according to [her] bond; nor more nor less’. She says that he begot her, bred and loved her. In return she would obey him and most honour him.

7. How does Lear react on Cordelia’s response?

Lear is disappointed because Cordelia has always been his favourite daughter. He expected her to top her sisters’ flattering speeches. He swears upon the sacred radiance of the sun, the mysteries of Hecate and the night. He snaps off all his ties with her and disowns her from his propinquity and property.

8. Why does Kent defend Cordelia when her father banishes her?

Ans: Kent believes that his life has never been more than a pawn saving its king. He would wage against his enemies never lose life as His safety is the motive.

9. Why does King Lear compare himself to a dragon?

Ans: When he gets an unexpected response from his daughter Cordelia. He fumes in anger and tells Kent not to come between the dragon (King Lear himself) and his wrath (anger). As he loved her the most and had thought to spend his remaining life in her care.

10. How does Kent justify his advices regarding Cordelia?

Ans: Kent remarks that he has always honoured the King as his great patron and thought on in his prayers. He is ready to face the wrath which can invade the region of his heart like a fork. But he believes that when Lear is mad, Kent will be unmannerly.

11. According to Kent, what should King Lear not be mistaken about?

Ans: Kent says that he should not be mistaken that duty dreads to speak. When power bows down due to flattery or when majesty stoops to folly. He will speak to reverse the doom, he will check the hideous rash decisions taken by the King.

12. Why does King Lear banish Kent?

Ans: King Lear banishes Kent since he sought to make him break his bow which he has never dared to do and with strained pride Kent tried to come in between his sentence and power. He says that he can never tolerate anyone interfering in his nature and his place.

13. What conditions are put forward by King Lear on Kent regarding the banishment?

Ans: King Lear says that as Kent’s punishment he will be allotted five days to make provisions for himself to shield form the diseases of the world and on the sixth day to turn away his hated back upon his kingdom. If, on the following tenth day, his banished trunk may be found in his dominion, the moment would mean death.

14. Mention the farewell speech given by Kent.

Ans: Kent says that since Freedom lives elsewhere and banishment is here (in King Lear’s kingdom) he would want to leave. To Cordelia he says that God will give His dearest shelter and she has spoken rightly. To Regan and Goneril he says that he wishes their deeds will approve their large speeches and that the good effects may spring from words of love.