Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: First Term Examination (Literature)**

**Std VIII-JK Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**Section A- Prose**

**Solve any 2 questions from this section**

**Question 1**

1. ‘He’ is Bertie here. He was Honoria Saltpen-Jago’s youngest son. She was a person of some social importance in London and of considerable importance and influence in the county of Chalkshire. A cigarette-case, matchbox, key, silver pencil case and railway ticket.
2. He was staring at the coin ruefully as he had only been left with that much of money. He was looking for his coin-purse. He had forgotten his coin-purse when he wanted to seal a letter. His coin purse also had a seal of crest on it. He had some loose change in his pocket but after he paid for a taxi and his ticket, he was only left with six-pence.
3. After the first curse emitted by the other occupant, Sletherby glanced hastily at the other occupant of the carriage. However, after the second curse Sletherby did not draw forth any remark but he resumed his scrutiny of the magazine.
4. The other man travelling to Brill Manor was Bertie, Mrs Saltpen-Jago’s second son who seemed to be very careless in handling things. From his conversation with Sletherby it is clear that he is an honest and straight-forward person who frankly told Sletherby how and why he had left his coinpurse on the table. He is also truthful towards his mother as whatever information he gave of Sletherby was accurate.
5. In the last part of the story Sletherby thought that he would have an entertaining story to recount at dinner that evening and his clever little trap would earn him applause. And, everyone will think highly of him. They will also consider him as a man of wisdom by giving him a huge round of applause for his resource and astuteness.

**Question 2**

1. After the ant-lion released the leg, he seized the meat-ant by its abdomen. There was a wild scurry in the pit now and the ant was rearing in the fountaining sand. The children could see those shovel-jaws working.
2. a wagtail hopped on the fence, the other ants ran placidly about their business, creek below made an endless liquid noise over the rocks.
3. No, we know that Morvenna was not keen on continuing the activity because she tries to stop her brother from getting a meat-ant. She even threatens him and says if he does it she would kill the ant-lion and sits with her hands over her eyes.
4. The sand was moving treacherously and persistently, Max pushed the meat-ant down with a twig, the jaws hung on the meat-ant like the jaws of a dingo and the heavy weight of ant-lion seemed to be like the weight of a grub-like creature were the various difficulties that the meat-ant had to contend with, in trying to get out of reach of the ant-lion.
5. In their whole minds, the ant and its arena of battle enlarged, filled the whole world
6. Shamed enraptured she clung to the tree root with one hand and stared down.
7. To the two children all had shrunk to the dimensions of the pit and the creatures in it.

**Question 3**

1. The speaker here is Dr Watson. This scene takes place in the bedroom of Sherlock Holmes. Dr Watson had been hiding behind the head of Sherlock’s bed and when he heard Sherlock speaking normally he called out nearly in Culverton’s presence.
2. Dr Watson, being a doctor, had never heard of such an illness. Sherlock doesn’t give any details even to his landlady and also would not let his doctor-friend examine him. He even reached the conclusion without any doctor’s confirmation. To avoid Dr Watson’s proximity he says that he has caught a very contagious disease. The dying man Sherlock leaps like a tiger to lock the door and the next moment he staggers back to his bed. Holmes wisely directs Watson not to come along with Culverton Smith. Inspector Morton smiles after he asks Doctor Watson about his well-being. Holmes asks Watson to hide behind his bed, he tells the doctor to light up the candle. **(ANY 3)**
3. Sherlock manipulates Watson as only through him he could succeed in catching the murderer red-handed. It was important to win his complete confidence and stretch the bait to attract the murderer fall into the trap.
4. Mr Culverton Smith wanted to kill Holmes because the former had murdered Victor Savage and the latter knew all the secrets about the killing. The two reasons were; on the charge of the murder of Victor Savage and the other was the attempted murder of Sherlock Holmes.
5. The sentence means that a person is not behaving according to his/her age or as per the person’s personality. The other part means that whenever a matured person falls ill, he starts behaving like a child does to fulfil his childish demands.

**Section B- Poetry**

**Question 4**

1. Sir Ralph was excessively mirthful on seeing the buoy as he had a wicked plan in his mind. The plan was to cut the Inchcape Bell away from the float.
2. Sir Ralph decided to cut the Inchcape Bell as it used to earn a lot of blessings and praise for the Abbot of Aberbrothok. As Sir Ralph was jealous of this praise he decided to plague the reputation of the Abbot. If the sailors didn’t survive, they would obviously not bless the Abbot.
3. Sir Ralph instructed the sailors to put out a lifeboat and row him towards the Inchcape Rock. He wanted to go near the Inchcape Rock and plague the Abbot of Aberbrothok by cutting away the Inchcape Bell.
4. The colour of the buoy was darker than green. We know it as the buoy was visible as a dark speck on the green ocean. He felt the cheering power of spring which made him whistle and sing. His heart was excessively mirthful and his mirth was hidden in his wickedness.
5. The sea was very calm at the start of the poem. There was no movement in the air. The ship was absolutely still as its sail did not receive any motion from heaven. The keel was completely steady in the ocean. It was because the sails of the ship were not filled by the breeze. This led to the ship being almost stationary. The day has been described as a pleasant day when the sun was shining brightly in the heaven. All things were seemed to be joyful. The sea-birds were screaming while wheeling around and there was joyance in their sound.

**Question 5**

1. Triumph and Disaster are the two impostors mentioned in the poem. They are called so as the sense of victory or sense of defeat are transient and short-lived. They are temporary in life and have no permanent place in a man’s life.
2. The poet says that one should dream and be ambitious to achieve those aspirations. But at the same time one should not become slave to those dreams.
3. The poet says that it is good to think before any action but we must not be absolutely rigid in our thinking. We must be open to different perspectives and opinions that can shape our thinking process.
4. According to the poet a man must be calm, self-confident, loyal, truthful, upright, loving, positive-minded and strong enough to reconstruct things from disasters. A man should be forgiving and ready to act positively. He must learn to sacrifice and value action.
5. Antithesis- two opposite words ‘Triumph’ and ‘Disaster’ are mentioned

Personification- The words are given capital letters in the beginning to personify them like proper nouns

**Question 6**

1. The moon slowly dawned. The game that was being played was hide and seek. The children were laughing and were ready to run to hide in a new place.
2. The children later laid their staying hand on each other to listen before they dared to look. In the silence, they heard the brook.
3. Touch- Autumn eve was fair though chill

Hear- A slender tinkling fall that made… / we heard the brook

See- barren boughs, without leaves, without the birds, like pearls, silver blade

1. It is the evening time in autumn season filled with dim moonlight. The brook was by the woods

Because the autumn eve was fair./ And by the brook our woods were there.

1. The well next to their house had dried up and so with a pail they went across the fields to seek the brook. No, they did not get the water there as the brook had been frozen. The drops floated on the pool like pearls and the frozen ice looked like silver blade.

**Section C- Drama**

**Solve any 1 question from this section**

1. Write a note on Mollie Ralston and Christopher Wren (16)
2. A. Mention how the different rooms were allotted to different guests and what happens eventually? (8)

B. Give evidences from Scene 1 to show that Mr and Mrs Ralston were new in the business of hospitality. (8)

1. Page 19 and 21 of the text book
2. Discussed in the class