Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Purple Children, Two Poems**

**Std VIII Duration: 40 min Marks 30**

**Answer the following questions according to the weightage:**

**Q.1 ‘You can’t go in there… ’**

1. Who said the above line and to whom? Why? (3)

Ans: The above line is spoken by the sentry to the little girl who was looking for her cat in the dark night. The sentry said the above line as it was late in the night and there was curfew which forbade the people to move out of their houses.

**Q.2 ‘Well be quiet about it. Come quick’**

1. What did the speaker mean by the above lines? (2)

Ans: The sentry asked the listener to be quiet about him allowing her inside the Town Hall gate as there was a curfew and as he was not allowed to do so.

2. What happened next after the lines were spoken? (3)

Ans: After the speaker said the line, the listener slipped past him inside the gate like a shadow who found her cat lost among the deep shadows under the wall. It took around ten minutes for the girl to snatch up her pet.

3. Who is the speaker and the listener of these lines? (2)

Ans: Speaker: The sentry, the listener: the little girl

**Q.3 ‘At least you had the sense to fire.’**

1. Who is the speaker and who is the listener? (2)

Speaker: Major, listener: sentry

2. What is speaker talking about? (4)

Ans: The Major who is the speaker is talking about the girl at whom the sentry fired the gun. The girl who was searching for her cat had turned out to be a rebel, who along with her partner had escaped into the night while the sentry was trying to catch them. The sentry had somehow managed to spray the purple dye at the girl which gave her a distinguishing feature from the rest.

**Q.4 He beheld regiment, a Phyrric phalanx of embattled children, all their delicate, olive faces splattered from forehead to chin with the resplendent purple of royalty and mourning.**

1. Where did this scene take place? How many ‘young heads’ were present? (2)

Ans: This scene took place at the assembly hall of the school. There were fifty three young heads (school children) present there.

2. Why were all the faces splattered with the purple dye? (2)

Ans: All the children had splattered their faces with the purple dye as they did not want their friend Ariana to be recognised by the army as she was the only one at whom the sentry had fired.

**Q.5 I smile at your play with that little bit of a broken twig.**

a. Who is the speaker? Whose play is he laughing at? (2)

Ans: The speaker is an adult. He is laughing at the child’s play.

b. What does the speaker say immediately after this line? (2)

Ans: Immediately after this line, the speaker says that he is busy with his accounts, adding up figures by the hour.

**Q.6 Child, I have forgotten the art of being absorbed in sticks and mud-pies.**

a. Why has the speaker forgotten the art of absorbed in sticks and mud-pies?

(2)

Ans: The speaker has forgotten the art of being absorbed in sticks and mud-pies as he has grown up and started seeking out costly playthings and gathering lumps of gold and silver.

**3. It has grown into a habit….**

a. What had grown into a habit? Whom is the poet talking about and what did he want? (4)

Ans: Picking up the pebbles, touching the chain and throwing them away without looking to see if a change had come- had become a habit. The poet is talking about a madman and he was looking for a touchstone.