Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: March

1. March one day can be cold as any day in winter and next day is as warm as spring, dry as a desert one morning and by sundown as wet as a monsoon night. The narrator also mentions how he has put away the warm clothes by the middle of the month and then take out summer clothes only to put back the cottons and once again get out cardigans and warm socks due to the unpredictability of the month.
2. Hailstones are caused by strong winds, raindrops converted to ice tossed icelets. It does not occur in winter as it requires strong winds for its occurrence.
3. Do not throw an article of clothing till the end of March as it can be warm or cold, so March is unpredictable.
4. Humans and insects are the ones to be fooled by the weather. Though the insects are said to be endowed with an extra sense of forecasting the weather, suffer heavy losses.
5. Cricket’s chirp is the substitute to the thermometer. The hotter it is, the faster cricket chirps. Count the number of cricket chirps per minute and divide the total by four and then add forty, one gets the temperature of the room in Farhenheit.
6. Some years only the young ones are out with their long tube syringes buckets of coloured water and red powder to fight mock battles and yelling and for the old ones, they are scared of being dowsed.
7. One the one hand, we can see the grapewine and the madhumalati i.e. Quisqualis indica add new leaves everyday. On the other hand, neems, mahuas, jamuns, peepals and banyans are shedding their foliage.
8. Vultures, kites, neophrons, koel, papeehas (hawk cuckoos), crow pheasants, tree pies, golden orioles, coppersmiths, crimson-throated barbet, magpie robin, bay-backed and rufous shrikes, butcherbird, owlets

Pansies, phlox, salvias, violets, purple bougainvilleas and other delicate varieties of flowers.

9. Vultures and kites are busy making their nests. According to the writer, the white-backed vultures choose the same cleft, in the branches of the Ailanthus (Mahavriksh) overlooking the Golf Club swimming pool. A pair of neophrons has for years occupied the same niche in the western wall of the Bara Gumbad in Lodi Garden.

10. The tree is common in Delhi. Its Latin name is Ailanthus(tree of heaven) excelsa (very tall) is summed up by its Hindi name Mahavriksh (the great tree). The wood of this tree of heaven is used for making packing cases and matchsticks.

11. Magpie robin is incomparable. It usually sings in the early hours of the morning or at twilight and evening.

12. The Buddha Jayanti Park specialises in planting masses of the same flower for each bed. The Lodi Gardens has quite a few flowering trees and beds of different and delicate varieties of flowers.

13. The shrike, also known as butcherbird due to its nasty habit of impaling live insects on thorns.

14. Watermelons, cantaloupes, muskmelons (tarbooz and kharbooza), mulberries (white and purple), much-fancied Alfonzo and other locally grown mangoes will come after a few more weeks.

15. In the olden days, one had to be an expert to tell the sweet melons from the tasteless. One only could bring kharboozas from Tonk or Sahranpur. Today one has to be unlucky to bring home a flat-tasting melon as most of them are sweet and succulent.