Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: A Boy’s Best Friend

1. Who is the new guest on the moon? Where did he reach first and why was there so much excitement about his arrival?

Ans: The new guest on the moon is a real dog; a Scotch Terrier puppy. First he reached at the rocket station to go through different tests. There was a lot of excitement because it had been fifteen years and Mr and Mrs. Anderson had not seen dog for a very long time.

2. Why was the new guest brought in on the moon?

Ans: The new guest was brought in on the moon as Jimmy was a Moon-born and he had never seen a real dog and it was the first ever on the Moon. Moreover, maintaining Robutt was expensive.

3. Describe Jimmy and Robutt.

Ans: Jimmy was a Moon-born. By Earth standards, he was spindly but rather tall for a 10 year old. His arms and legs were long and agile. He looked thicker and stubbier with his spacesuit on but he could handle the lunar gravity as no Earth-born human being could. His father too couldn’t keep up with him when Jimmy stretched his legs and went into the Kangaroo hop.

Ans: Robutt- was a Robot mutt. Mutt means a dog. It was a robotic dog who could hear Jimmy by radio. Robutt always outraced Jimmy and he didn’t need any spacesuit. He had four legs and tendons of steel.

4. Was Robutt able to hear Jimmy? How?

Ans: Yes, Robutt was able to hear Jimmy because of the radio.

5. Why could Robutt outrace Jimmy? How was Jimmy different from others?

Ans: Robutt could outrace Jimmy because he need not wear a spacesuit. Jimmy was different from others as he was Moon born and according to the Earth standards he was spindly and rather tall for a 10 year old.

6. How do we know that Jimmy had been to the crater many times before?

Ans: We know that Jimmy had been to the crater many times because he knew the exact location of every one of the few rocks though the grown-ups had said that the area was dangerous. Also, because the darkness near the crater has been described as ‘friendly’. It is because he has visited the place very often.

7. Why did Jimmy never find the dark side of the crater wall to be dangerous?

Ans: Jimmy never found the dark side of the crater wall to be dangerous as he has visited the place a number of times and he knew the exact location of every one of the few rocks. Also, the darkness near the crater has been described as ‘friendly’. It is because he has visited the place very often.

8. What prank did Jimmy once play upon everyone? What happened next?

Ans: Jimmy once had lain still and pretended that he was hurt. Robutt had sounded the radio alarm and people from Lunar City got there in a hurry. Jimmy’s father had scolded him for this prank and Jimmy never tried to do it again.

9. What would Jimmy and Robutt do to come inside his house on the moon? Why?

Ans: Jimmy and Robutt were instructed to take a wash before they came inside the house on the moon. It was according to a typical Earth standard that one has to wash up for hygienic reasons.

10. Describe the real dog.

Ans: It was Scotch terrier puppy. It was the first real dog on the moon. It first visited the rocket station to pass a certain number of tests.

11. Why could Jimmy never understand the difference between the two dogs?

Ans: Jimmy could never understand the difference between the two dogs because for him, as the real one expresses love and responds so did the robot dog too. He feels that as Robutt does everything that he wishes him to do and the dog understands Jimmy well, it is as good as a real one.

12. What did Robutt’s low squeak demonstrate?

Ans: Robutt’s low squeak demonstrated that he was frightened and did not want to leave Jimmy.

13. Did Robutt actually understand human emotions? Justify with examples from the text.a

Ans: Yes, Robutt did understand human emotions quite well. He gave low squeak when he realised that he could be sent away. Had he not understood human emotions, he would have not expressed. Secondly, when Jimmy says that he loves Robutt, the dog gave happy squeaks.