Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: The Solitary Reaper

1. Whom did the poet see? Where did he see him/her?

Ans : The poet saw a Highland lass in a field.

1. What is the ‘Highland lass doing’?

Ans: The Highland lass was reaping and singing by herself.

1. What work is the woman doing? Who else is working with her?

Ans: The woman is cutting and binding the grain. She is working alone.

1. To whom does the poet say ‘to stop here, or gently pass’? Why does he say so?

Ans: The poet tells the people passing by to stop there or gently pass. As the Highland lass( solitary reaper ) is singing , he does not want anyone to disturb her.

1. What kind of a song was the woman singing? Did the poet understand the words?

Ans: The woman was singing a melancholic ( sad ) song. No, the poet did not understand the words.

1. The song is compared to which two birds? Why?

Ans: The song is compared to a nightingale whose welcome notes soothe the weary bands of travellers in Arabian sands. It is compared to the song of a cuckoo-bird. The reaper’s voice is more thrilling than the cuckoo bird and it breaks the silence of the seas of Hebrides.

1. Mention the places where the song of the woman can be heard.

Ans: The song of the woman can be heard in the deep valley ( profound vale) and on the seas of the Hebrides islands.

1. What are the different assumptions that the poet makes about the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poet feels that the plaintive numbers flow probably for old unhappy far-off things and battles long ago. The songs could also be about some natural sorrow, loss or pain of to-day.

1. Did the song create an everlasting effect on the poet? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: Yes, the song did create an everlasting effect on the poet. We come to know this because the music remained in his heart though he mounted up the hill and the music still echoed in his heart even long after it was heard no more.

1. Name and explain the figure of speech in the following sentences:
2. Stop here, or gently pass!

Ans: Antithesis: Two opposite words ‘stop’ and ‘pass’ are given,

1. Some natural sorrow, loss or pain

Ans: Tautology: Two similar meaning words are given ‘sorrow’ and ‘pain’

1. I listen’d, motionless and still

Ans: Tautology: Two similar meaning words are given ‘motionless’ and ‘still’