Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Powder and Arms (AK)

I. Answer the following:

1. How did the narrator reach the Hispaniola?

Ans. The Hispaniola was some way out and the narrator, along with the others went under the figureheads and round the sterns of many other ships.

2. Who greeted the narrator and his companions as they boarded the ship? Write a few lines about him.

Ans. Mr Arrow, the mate, greeted them. He was a brown old sailor with earrings in his ears and a squint. He and Squire Trelawney were friendly.

3. Who was the captain? Who had employed him? How were things between them?

Ans: Mr. Smollet was the captain. He had been employed by Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey. Mr Trelawney and Captain Smollet were not on friendly terms.

4. When Trelawney asked the captain what the matter was, what was his reply?

Ans. When Trelawney asked the captain what the matter was, he plainly told him that he didn’t like the cruise, the men and the officer, Mr Arrow.

5. Give three reasons why the captain did not like the cruise.

Ans. The captain did not like the cruise because every member seemed to know more about the cruise than he did. Secondly he wasn’t told that they were going after some treasure and he had heard it from his crew. Finally he said that the secret had been told to Silver, who like a parrot spoke senselessly.

6. What were the captain’s views about the crew?

Ans. The captain did not like the crew. According to him , he should have been given the authority to select his own crew.

7. Why did the captain not like Mr Arrow?

Ans. The captain did not like Mr Arrow because he was too free with the crew. He believed that a mate should keep a distance from the crew before they set out to sail.

8. What did Captain Smollet want?

Ans: Captain Smollet wanted three things to be done. He wanted the powder and the arms to be shifted from the fore hold to the place under his cabin. He also wanted the four people, that were brought in by the Squire , to be given berths next to the cabin. The third thing that he insisted was to keep the map of the treasure island secret even from him and Mr Arrow.

9. Did the captain agree that he feared a mutiny? What explanation did he give for his answer.

Ans: The captain did not agree that he feared a mutiny. He said that no captain would be justified in going to sea at all if he had ground enough to fear a mutiny.

10. Why did the captain want the precautions to be taken? What was his stand if his demands were not met?

Ans: The captain said that he was responsible for the ship’s safety and the life of every man aboard the ship. He strongly feels that the way things were going , they were not quite right. He said that if they did not take the precautions that he had demanded , they should let him resign.

11. Which fable did the captain remind the doctor about? Why?

Ans: The doctor said that the captain reminded him about the fable of the mountain and the mouse. He says so because he thought the captain had come to speak to him about some serious issue but after hearing him out he realised that the captain was speaking about trivial issues.

12. Write down at least two lines from the text which tell us that Squire Trelawney did not like Captain Smollet at all.

Ans: The following lines tell us that Squire Trelawney did not like Captain Smollet at all- ‘I am always at the captain’s orders’, ‘Perhaps, sir, you don’t like the ship?’, ’Possibly, sir, you may not like your employer, either?’ ‘I should have seen you to the deuce.As it is I have heard you. I will do as you desire, but I think the worse of you. ‘but as for that intolerable humbug, I declare I think his conduct unmanly, unsailorly and downright un-English.

13. Write character sketches of the following with the help of the lesson:

a) Captain Smollet b) Squire Trelawney c) Dr. Livesey

Ans:

1. Captain Smollet : He had been appointed by Squire Trelawney as the captain of the ship. He is a very sincere and responsible person who takes his job seriously. He possesses good negotiating skills . He seems to be a righteous person not very happy with the aspect of treasure hunting at the cost of the safety of his crew.
2. Squire Trelawney: He is a nobleman. On hearing about the treasure from Jim, he arranges the voyage to the island to find it.He seems to be an influential person. He does not like the captain as he seems to not obey his command inpite of being appointed by him.
3. Dr. Livesey : The local doctor , Dr. Livesey, is wise and practical. He seems to be quite wise as he mediates between the captain and the Squire keeping and successfully gets the voyage started by stopping the captain from resigning. He is a fair minded person.