Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**VIII BB LITERATURE TEST : Mrs Packletide’s Tiger 20 Marks**

**(Answer Key )**

1. **Answer with reference to context: (16)**
2. **The prospect of earning the thousand rupees had stimulated the sporting and commercial instinct of the villagers.**
3. **Who would be giving the money to the villagers? Why? 2**

Ans: Mrs Packletide would be giving money to the villagers. She wanted to kill a tiger inorder to become more famous than her rival Loona Bimberton. She would be giving a thousand rupees to the villagers to make suitable arrangements for her to kill a tiger without over-much risk or exertion.

1. **Explain the above line. 2**

Ans: The above line means that the villagers were very happy and excited to receive a thousand rupees for making arrangements for Mrs Packletide to kill a tiger. This offer made them enthusiastic and active. They were ready to do anything to earn the money and took great efforts to take care of the tiger which happened to be on the outskirts of their village.

1. **What efforts did the villagers take to earn the money? 4**

Ans: The villagers took great care of the tiger so that Mrs Packletide could shoot it and they can get a thousand rupees. Children were posed night and day on the outskirts of the local jungle to head back the tiger in case it attempts to roam away to fresh hunting grounds. They left cheaper kind of goats to keep the tiger satisfied with his present quarters. Even the mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day’s work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the tiger. The greatest anxiety of the villagers was that the tiger should not die of old age before the date appointed for the memsahib's shoot.

1. **‘I believe it’s ill.”**
2. **Who said the above line to whom? What does ‘it’ refer to? 3**

Ans: The above line was said by Miss Mebbin, the paid companion of Mrs Packletide to Mrs Packletide. ‘It’ refers to the tiger, which was to be shot by Mrs Packletide.

1. **How did the person speak? Why? 2**

Ans: The person , Miss Mebbin, spoke loudly in Hindustani, so that she could be heard by the village headman who was in ambush in a neighbouring tree. She wanted to make sure that they do not overpay for an ill tiger.

1. **What was the relation of the speaker with Mrs Packletide? How was the nature of the speaker? Give any two examples to substantiate your answer. 3** Ans: The speaker was a paid companion of Mrs Packletide while she would be shooting the tiger, probably an evidence to her shooting. Louisa Mebbin adopted a protective elder-sister attitude towards money, implying that she was careful while dealing in money matters. Whenever she was out of her country and putting up in a hotel she would never give any tips to the staff. Even during the shooting of the tiger she kept worrying if Mrs Packletide had paid more than required to the villages for such an old tiger. Further she also mentioned that if the tiger did not touch the goat before being killed, they should not pay the villagers for the goat. ( any two examples to be given)
2. **Answer any one of the following : (3)**
3. **Do you think Mrs. Packletide was able to achieve her heart’s desire ? Give reasons for your answer.**

Ans. Initially, Mrs. Packletide was indeed successful in achieving her heart's desire of shooting a tiger in order to possess a tiger-skin and get her photographs published in the papers. She accomplished her dream of outdoing Loona Bimberton and becoming more famous than her. But later she had to pay a heavy price to keep the fact that the tiger had not been shot by her rifle.

1. **What are the actions of people normally governed by? How was Mrs Packletide an exception? Give reasons for your answer.**

Ans: The actions of people in general are governed by hunger and love. Mrs Packletide is an exception because all her actions were driven by her dislike of Loona Bimberton. Loona Bimberton had become the talk of the town as she had been carried in an aeroplane by an Algerian aviator . In order to show her superiority, Mrs Packletide decided to kill a tiger. She also planned a luncheon on the pretext of honouring Loona Bimberton with the actual motive to show off her hunting skills. She also planned to send a tiger-claw brooch to Loona Bimberton on her next birthday.

1. **Writer the meanings of : (1)**
2. **propitious b) infirmities**

Ans: a) favourable / likely to lead to success b) weaknesses