Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Two poems

**ANSWER KEY**

1. The madman is described as wandering who is seeking the touchstone and has matted locks tawny and dust laden and a body that has worn to a shadow. His eyes are tight-pressed like the shut up doors of his heart and his burning eyes are like the lamp of a glow worm seeking its mate.

2. The village boy asked the madman to tell him from where had the madman come with the golden chain which he had about his waist.

3. The madman did not realise that the iron chain had turned into gold because of the habit of picking up pebbles touching the chain and throwing them away without looking to see if a change had come.

4. His strength is gone, his body is bent and his heart is in the dust, like a tree that has been uprooted.

5. The child is sitting in the dust and playing with a broken twig all the morning while the adult is busy with his accounts, adding up figures by the hour.

6. The adult has forgotten the ant of being absorbed in sticks and mud pies. He seeks out costly playthings and gathers lumps of gold and silver.

7. Frail canoe is compared to life. It symbolises how everyone has to balance duties and desires in his or her own life.

8. That people tend to forget the real charm of life in the process of earning money and running after responsibilities.

9. The madman’s attitude portrays that while we are in search of certain things we get so involved in the activity that we do not even realise when that thing comes to us and when we lose it.