Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: Emma Chapter 2**

1. In what way was Mr Woodhouse fond of society?

Ans: Mr Woodhouse was fond of society in his own way. He liked his friends to come and see him and there were plenty of them in Highbury and nearby who enjoyed his hospitality. He himself did not enjoy visiting families who expected him to stay late at night nor those who held large dinner parties.

1. Who came to see Mr Woodhouse frequently? Why?

Ans: Mr Knightley and Mr and Mrs Weston came to see Mr Woodhouse frequently for they had a great affection for him. Mr Elton, the vicar, who lived by himself but did not like being alone, was often at Hartfield for the company of Mr Woodhouse and his lovely daughter Emma.

1. Which three ladies were always glad to be invited to Hartfield? Give some information about them.

Ans: In the village, there were three ladies who were always glad of an invitation to Hartfield – Mrs Goddard, Mrs Bates and Miss Bates. Mrs Goddard had a boarding school whilst Miss Bates , middle aged and full of goodwill , devoted her life to caring for her aged mother.

1. Write at least four points to describe Miss Bates.

Ans.Miss Bates was middle-aged and full of goodwill. She devoted her life to caring for her aged mother. Her father was dead and he and her mother lived above a shop in the village. Their income was small and yet she was a happy woman of whom everyone spoke with goodwill. She loved everybody and was interested in everybody’s happiness and acknowledged other people’s virtues.

1. What happened one morning as Emma sat thinking of the long evening ahead when she would be entertaining the ladies?

Ans: One morning as Emma sat thinking of the long evening ahead when she would be entertaining the ladies, a letter came from Mrs Goddard asking if she might bring Miss Smith with her.

1. What did Emma do ? What were her thoughts ?

Ans: Emma quickly wrote a note of invitation to the girl, Miss Smith. Emma thought that Harriet , aged seventeen and very beautiful, would be a pleasant companion for the evening.

1. Write a brief note on Harriet based on this chapter.

Ans: Very little was known of Harriet Smith’s history. She was the natural daughter of an unknown person who paid for her to be at Mrs Goddard’s school. She had beauty which Emma particularly admired. She was short, plump and fair, with blue eyes , light hair and a sweet look.

1. Where had Harriet been staying ? What did Emma think of that?

Ans: Harriet had been staying with a family called Martin who rented a large farm from Mr Knightley. Emma was of the opinion that the Martins lacked the social gifts that she thought desirable.

1. What was Emma’s plan with respect to Harriet?

Ans: Emma wanted to improve Harriet’s status and introduce her into good society for which she would first have to separate her from acquaintances who would not help in this way.

1. What was the topic of discussion when Harriet would speak to Emma?

Ans: When Harriet spoke to Emma, a great deal of her conversation was naturally about Mrs Goddard’s school where she had spent so many years. But she also talked of the Martins of Abbey Mill Farm. She had lived with them for two months and loved to tell Emma of the pleasure the visit had given her and of the comforts and wonders of the place.

1. How did Harriet’s discussion confuse Emma? What did she finally realise?

Ans: Emma was most amused by Harriet’s descriptions. At first , she imagined that the family consisted of Mrs Martin , her son and daughter and her son’s wife. Gradually, Emma realised the true situation. Mr Martin, whom Harriet always mentioned with approval , was not married. The two young ladies of whom Harriet spoke were both Mrs Martin’s daughters.

1. What danger did Emma foresee to her plan regarding Harriet?

Ans: When Emma realised that Mr Martin was a bachelor, she saw the danger to her plan for the improvement of Harriet. She realised that her plan regarding Harriet would fail if Harriet should fall in love with the farmer and become young Mrs Martin.

1. What did Harriet tell Emma about Mr Martin?

Ans: Harriet told Emma how Mr Martin had shared in their games and their walks. He had once walked three miles to fetch her some walnuts. One night he had brought in his shepherd’s son to sing to her. Harriet told Emma that everybody spoke well of him. His mother and sisters were very fond of him.

1. What questions did Emma ask Harriet about Mr Martin?

Ans: Emma asked Mr Martin whether he is a well-read man and what sort of a man he was. She also asked how old he was.

1. What lesson did Emma give Harriet?

Ans: Emma told Harriet that when Mr Martin marries , his wife may not be a suitable person for Harriet to know. She further told her that because of the misfortune of her birth , she must be particularly careful whom she has as her friends. She assured her that she was the daughter of a wealthy gentleman and so she must support her claim be acting as though she were. Emma told her that she wanted to see her in good society and not a friend of farmers’ daughters.

1. What happened the next day? What did she observe about Mr Martin?

Ans: The next day , Emma and Harriet happened to meet Mr Martin while they were walking. Emma walked on ahead and left Mr Martin and Harriet talking together. She used the opportunity to survey him closely. His appearance was very neat and he looked a sensible young man but she could see no other advantages and Emma was sure that when he was compared with other gentlemen he would appear less attractive to Harriet.

1. When Harriet asked Emma for her opinion about Mr Martin, what did she say?

Ans: Emma told her that he was remarkably plain. She added that he lacked good manners. She said she had no right to expect much of him but she did not expect that he would be lacking in dignity.

1. Whom did Harriet compare Mr Martin to? Whom did Emma tell her to compare Mr Martin to?

Ans: Harriet compared Mr Martin to Mr Knightley saying that Mr Martin did not have such a dignity and way of walking such as Mr Knightley’s. Emma told her to compare Mr Martin with either Mr Weston or Mr Elton.

1. What did Emma tell Harriet about Mr Elton?

Ans: Emma said that in one respect Mr Elton’s manners were perhaps superior to Mr Knightley’s and Mr Weston’s. She said that a young man could consider Mr Elton as a model. He was good-humoured, cheerful, obliging and gentle.

1. What had Emma decided about bringing about another marriage? What was her fear regarding that? How did she console herself?

Ans: Emma had decided to endeavour to bring about another marriage and had chosen Mr Elton as the man that Harriet must marry. Her only fear was that this idea would occur to everybody else so that she could not receive the credit for having planned it. She consoled herself with the thought that no one could have thought of it sooner as the idea had come to her when she had first met Harriet.