Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: Ring Out , Wild Bells**

**Answer the following :**

1. **At what time of the year do the bells ring? What is the dual purpose of the ringing of the bells?**

Ans: The bells ring on the eve of the last day of the year. The dual purpose of the ringing of bells is to bid farewell to the old year and to welcome the new year.

1. **Describe the weather at that time.**

Ans: During new year the weather is extremely cold and frosty.

1. **Name and explain the figure of speech in the line ‘let him die’.**

Ans: It is a Personification as ‘him’ refers to the New Year. Here the poet is giving a human attribute of ‘dying’ to the non-human idea ‘year’.

1. **Who is ‘dying’ and why does the poet say that we must allow ‘him’ to die?**

Ans: The previous /old year is dying. Only when the old year passes away, will the New Year come. The New Year will bring a lot of hope and goodness and thus we must allow the New Year to die.

1. **Explain: ‘Let him go’**

Ans: In this line ‘him’ refers to the previous year. The poem is written at the time of New Year’s Eve when the previous year is about to end and the New Year is about to begin. Thus the poet here says that we must let the old year pass away.

1. **What does the poet mean by ringing in the true and ringing out the false?**

Ans: According to the poet we must bid farewell to falseness and welcome truth. We must do away with all lies and dishonesty and bring in truth in our life. Here the poet has also used a symbolism for the words ‘false’ and ‘true’. False also refers to the fact that the past is gone and therefore does not exist now where as the future is the only reality and therefore the truth.

1. **What grief does the poet refer to? How does such a grief affect us? What does the poet advise those in grief?**

Ans: The poet refers to the grief of losing our near and dear ones. Such a grief saps our mind and drains all our positivity and energy.

1. **Which feud does the poet want us to get rid of? What does ‘redress’ refer to?**

Ans: The poet wants us to get rid of the feud or the disputes between the rich and the poor. In other words he wants us to do away with class differences. ‘Redress’ refers to rectification of human error and reconciliation between people who have been fighting for a long time over petty issues so that entire mankind is pacified.

1. **What does ‘dying cause’ refer to?**

**Ans: Here ‘dying cause’ refers to old and futile customs which no longer hold any importance. As times change we must do away with such customs in order that we progress in life.**

1. **Which modes of life does the poet want to ring in? What do they include?**

Ans: The poet wants to ring in nobler modes of life which include sweeter and kinder manners and purer laws.

1. **Explain: Ring out false pride in place and blood**

Ans: Some people believe they are the owners of certain places and also that such land should then rightfully pass on to their blood relations. In other words they are very possessive about land. But this is false pride and should be done away with.

1. **What does the poet want common love of good to replace?**

Ans: The poet wants common love of good to replace civic slander and hatred. In other words there is a lot of prejudice in society where some consider others inferior and inflict insult upon them and express a lot of hatred towards them. The poet wants this spite and insult to be replaced with love of good.

1. **What does ‘lust of gold’ refer to? What does the poet say about it?**

Ans: ‘Lust of gold’ refers to the excessive greed of people to amass wealth. When people are too materialistic, they can use any means to fulfill their desires. The poet says that we must ring out such a lust for gold/ wealth.

1. **What are the poet’s views about war and peace?**

Ans: According to the poet man has been involved in conflict and war to show their prowess over land and the superiority of their race and country. These conflicts have lasted for thousands of years causing a lot of loss of life and property across the world. The poet pleads to the people to do away with such wars and to bring in peace which will last for thousands of years in the future.

1. **In the last stanza which type of people does the poet want us to welcome?**

Ans: In the last stanza the poet wants us to welcome people who are valiant and brave enough to embrace the new and do away with the old beliefs. He wants us the welcome people with larger hearts who can rise above the petty issues of society and discriminations based on class, caste and gender. The poet wants us to welcome people who are kindhearted and will help those in need and thus work towards the progress of the entire humanity.

1. **What does the ‘darkness of the land’ refer to?**

Ans: ‘Darkness of the land’ refers to the darkness that is spread by a lot of negative emotions in the heart of people. These emotions are that of hatred, envy, anger , superstitions, holding on to the old and useless customs, false pride and possessiveness, malice and political divide among people. The poet wants us to ring out all these and bring light of happiness and love on earth.

1. Explain the last line of the poem.

Ans: In the last line the poet says we must bring in ‘Christ’ in our lives. Christ represents love, goodness , faith and kindness. If we believe in ‘Christ’ and surrender to God we will be saved from all sin and error and there will be ultimate redemption in our lives.