Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**NOTES : Zoos**

**Answer the following:**

1. **What does the writer often wonder? How much money does he think is spent on zoos?**

Ans: The writer often wonders how much food is fed to the animals in the zoological gardens of America every week and tries to figure out what the public gets in return for the cost that is incurred for the same?

1. **Which two examples does he cite to show the exorbitant amount spent on animal food?**

Ans: The writer gives the example of the amount of meat a lion finishes in a single meal and the tons of hay an elephant finishes in a month.

1. **According to the writer what are the two main reasons for establishing zoos?**

Ans: According to the writer the two main reasons for establishing zoos are to provide employment to the several zoo superintendents and keepers and to put up a futile show of the beasts for the children and the least intelligent people of the society.

1. **How does the writer argue with those who claim that zoos are educational?**

Ans: The writer plainly refuses the argument that zoos are educational. He says that a person can get only as much education from zoos as he can get from a fire drill or an air show as it is only a form of foolish amusement. Just by watching an old feeble lion snoring in its cage or a family of monkeys fighting for peanuts no useful information can be gained. Only probably the Latin names of the creatures and some outward features can be observed.

1. **Does the writer agree that zoos have scientific values? What are his arguments?**

Ans: No. The writer does not agree that zoos have scientific values. He says that certain animals do help in understanding the anatomy, physiology of man and to certain extent pathology. But these studies cannot be made by just watching them in their cages through a safe distance. No dissection or experiments can be performed in the zoo. Further even after the animals in the zoo die, they are of no use to scientists as their carcasses are not handed to them for autopsy but stuffed and placed in museums.

1. **What are the writer’s views regarding the knowledge of animal behaviour in zoos?**

Ans: The writer believes that zoos produce little or no knowledge about animal behaviour. This is obvious as the animals are not in their natural surroundings and therefor will behave differently. For instance a scholar studying the habits of a giraffe by observing him in the zoo will conclude that it leads a sedentary life and is always melancholic.

1. **According to the writer what is the true utility of the zoo? How should the tax payers be saved?**

Ans: According to the writer the true utility of the zoo is only entertainment for the foolish people , children , their nursemaids and the uneducated ones. The tax payers should not be forced to spend their hard earned money on this futile venture. The people who draw any entertainment value from it should be combated and not encouraged at public expense.

1. **What examples does the writer give to convey the fact that we are robbing animals of their rights by keeping them in the zoos?**

Ans: The writer says that sadly we have deprived the animals of their right to habitat by keeping them confined in zoos. We have robbed the tiger of its prowess over the jungle, the monkeys of the trees , an eagle of its flight , a seal of its Arctic ice, the hippopotamus of its soft wallow, the buffalo of its open range , the lion of its kingship and the birds of their air.

1. **Is the writer a sentimentalist? What does he say about being one?**

Ans: The writer is not a sentimentalist. He says that he is not against muzzling a dog that barks unnecessarily or a cockroach that crunches. The writer says that though he is not a sentimentalist, he definitely is against keeping the animals in a zoo and if anyone thinks that the zoo faculty should be persecuted for their cruelty towards animals, he would surely join them in doing so.