Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: The Solitary Reaper

1. What is the ‘Highland lass doing’?

Ans: The highland lass is reaping, binds the grain and singing a melancholic song by herself.

2. To whom does the poet say ‘to stop here, or gently pass’?

Ans: The poet tells this to anyone who is a traveller or a passer-by to stop or gently pass as he doesn’t want her melodious song to be disturbed.

3. The song is compared to which two birds? Why?

Ans: The song is compared to a nightingale whose welcome notes soothe the weary bands of travellers in Arabian sands. It is compared to the song of a cuckoo-bird. The reaper’s voice is more thrilling than the cuckoo bird and it breaks the silence of the seas of Hebrides.

4. Why does the poet not know what she sings?

Ans: The poet doesn’t know what she sings as the poet doesn’t know if the poem is about some old unhappy far-off things or is it about some familiar matter of to-day. He only knows that the song is a melancholic one due to the music. We also know that the reaper is a Highland lass that is she is originally from Scotland and the poet was an English poet.

5. What are the different assumptions that the poet makes about the theme of the poem?

Ans: The poet feels that the plaintive numbers flow probably for old unhappy far-off things and battles long ago. Or maybe it some natural sorrow, loss or pain of to-day.

6. Did the song create an everlasting effect on the poet? Justify with an example from the poem.

Ans: Yes, the song did create an everlasting effect on the poet. We come to know this because the music remained in his heart though he mounted up the hill and the music still echoed in his heart even long after it was heard no more.

7. Name and explain the figure of speech in the following sentences:

Ans: Stop here, or gently pass!- Antithesis: Two opposite words ‘stop’ and ‘pass’ are given,

Some natural sorrow, loss or pain- Tautology: Two similar meaning words are given ‘sorrow’ and ‘pain’

I listen’d, motionless and still- Tautology: Two similar meaning words are given ‘motionless’ and ‘still’