Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: The Homeless

1. **Whom does the narrator envy?**

**Ans:** The narrator who is a homeless character envies those people who have house of their own, who can rest their feet in their own house and who do not live on sufferance in stranger’s shells i.e. who don’t live on rent in other’s houses.

1. **What has he been doing and what will he continue to do?**

Ans: The narrator says he has been living in stranger’s shells for past few years and probably he would continue to do so in future.

1. **Which place is untenured, according to the homeless character? Which other things are temporary according to him? Why?**

Ans: A place on earth where he has been living for past few years i.e. someone else’s house is untenured. The other temporary things are solid, brick, grass and air. It is because as he will shift to different places the bricks and concrete which the house is made up of, the grass and air around the house will change too.

1. **What does the homeless character wish for future?**

**Ans:** The homeless character wishes security, protection in a place of his own. He doesn’t want to move out and wants to review seasons from one lair that is his own house. When the night comes, he wants to sleep in peace and have an assurance that he may die peacefully as he slept. He wishes his things will not revert to a stranger’s hand and those people whom he loved may keep what he had kept.

Assignment: When I heard the Learn’d Astronomer

1. **How is the learn’d man’s lecture described?**

**Ans:**  The learn’d man’s lecture is described to be with full of proofs, figures that were ranged in columns before the narrator. He was shown the charts and diagrams. He was taught how to add, divide and measure them.

1. **Was everyone enjoying the astronomer’s lecture?**

Ans: Yes, everyone was indeed enjoying the astronomer’s lecture. He lectured with much applause in the lecture room.

1. **Did the narrator enjoy the astronomer’s lecture? Justify.**

Ans: No, the narrator didn’t enjoy the astronomer’s lecture. It was very unaccountable to express how tired and sick he became. He rose and glided out of the room.

1. **Where did the narrator go after leaving the lecture-room? What did he do there?**

Ans: The narrator left the lecture room and went in the mystical moist night-air and from time to time he looked up in perfect silence at the stars.

1. **What is the message of the poem?**

Ans: Whitman uses the example of the astronomer to show the difference between theoretical and experiential learning. The speaker finds the astronomer's lectures stars and mathematical formulas to be boring. He does not feel any sort of connection to the subject matter until he goes outside and sees the stars for himself. Looking up at the night sky is not an experience that one can experience in a classroom, no matter how "learn'd" the teacher might be Whitman felt very strongly that experiencing life's marvels was the only real way to learn.