Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Notes: I Have a Rendezvous with Death**

**Answer the following:**

1. **Where and during which season does the poet have a rendezvous with death?**

Ans: The poet has a rendezvous with death while he is at the battlefield near some disputed barricade. It is that time of the year which is the onset of Spring and the trees are blossoming and the sky is blue and bright and the days are pleasant.

1. **What does the poet consider death to do? What figure of speech is used in the lines?**

Ans: The poet considers death to be like a friend or a companion. He thinks that death may take his hand and lead him into its dark land. The figure of speech here is ‘Personification’ as death, an abstract idea is said to possess the human attribute of holding hands and leading someone( the poet).

1. **How will the poet react while meeting death? What hope does he have?**

Ans: While meeting death the poet will close his eyes and quench his breath. He also hopes that he may pass by death and survive after all.

1. **How does he describe the place where the poet will meet death?**

Ans: The poet says he will meet death at some disputed barricade. It may be some hill side which has been destroyed by battle and is marred by the marks of blood where many have been slain. The poet also says that it is some town which is in flames as a result of the battle.

1. **What according to the poet would be better than dying on a battlefield? Does the poet accept the option?**

Ans: According to the poet , it would be better if he were in his bedroom. He would prefer to sleep profoundly in his silk pillow surrounded by a lovely fragrance . He would prefer to be next to his loved ones rather than next to death. He does not take this option and prefers to meet his death as he has made a promise to do so and does not want to fall back on his commitment.

1. **How many times has the poet mentioned ‘Spring’? What does he say about it?**

Ans: The poet has mentioned ‘Spring’ four times in the poem. He highlights the features of the Spring season saying that it comes back with rustling shade or shelter and the aroma of apple blossoms fill the air. The days are pleasant as the sky is blue and bright. He then says that with the onset of Spring, flowers start appearing on the meadows.

1. **Which are the lines that are repeated (Bring out the use of ‘anaphora’) and what does it signify?**

Ans: The lines ‘I have a rendezvous with Death’ and ‘When Spring’ are repeated in the poem. Spring symbolizes life. The poet has used contrasting ideas to show that in a season which brings greenery and new life he is ready to meet death as he has a prior commitment with it.

1. **Write a character sketch of the poet based on to the poem.**

Ans: The poet is a soldier and true to his profession, he is brave and fearless. He is not afraid of death and is ready to face it while on duty. He is very practical as he knows that death is inevitable and one has to face it. He even goes on to consider death as his friend who will lead him to the other world quite gently. He has a loving family and a home to go to but chooses to meet his death during the battle. He seems to be a patriot who is ready to lay his life for the honour of his country.