Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Merchant of Venice (Act 2 Scene 2, Scene 3, Scene 4) Psalm of Life, Stopping by Woods…, God lives in the Panch, The Last leaf**

**Std IX Duration: 1 hour Marks 40**

**Answer Key**

1. The heart is attributed with the qualities of being ‘stout’ and ‘brave’. Our heartbeat ought to remind us of death. The beat here is compared to a marchpast. This march-past is steadily taking us to our grave. That is the reason we need to use our time well.

2. We can leave footprints on the sand of time by making our lives sublime. Our footprints can inspire a forlorn and shipwrecked brother. While sailing over, life’s solemn main (ocean), he may have faced disaster. But looking at our footprints he may take heart again. This inspiration can lead him out of the state of despair and desolation.

3. Launcelot says that tears are preventing him from speaking. He calls Jessica as the most beautiful pagan and the sweetest Jew. He says that if a Christian does not play a knave and get her he would be much deceived.

4. Jessica says it is a heinous sin to be ashamed to be her father’s child. She justifies it by saying that though she is a daughter to his blood, she is not to his manners. She wishes that Lorenzo keeps his promise and then she would become a Christian and his loving wife.

5. Lorenzo says that he knows the hand of the person who wrote the letter. He says that it is a fair hand and is whiter than the paper on which it is written. Launcelot is going to Shylock’s house after delivering the letter. He is inviting Shylock on behalf of Bassanio for the feast at Bassanio’s house.

6. Three sounds are mentioned in the poem. The woods only have the sound of the easy wind and the downy flake. To that the sound of harness bells shaken by the horse get added. It creates an enigmatic atmosphere in the background of silence.

7. In the last stanza, the woods are called lovely, dark and deep. These woods symbolize the distractions which are offered by the beautiful things around us. Many times in life we are not able to pull ourselves away from these distractions.

8. Till the time the deed remained unregistered, Jumman was obliging and considerate towards his aunt. Each and every wish of the aunt was anticipated and cheerfully carried out. But the moment the deed was registered, everything changed. Jumman became supremely indifferent and his wife went even further. She grudged even the little food that the old lady ate. The very bread that she ate was seasoned with abuses.

9. Jumman’s father had his own notions on how to bring up a lad. ‘Don’t spare the rod or you will spoil him,’ is what he used to say. He practised this precept in the case of his own son Jumman. The result was that none in the village could equal Jumman in drafting a petition or drawing up a deed. Jumman was highly esteemed in the village and the neighbourhood for scholarship and attainments.

10. Pneumonia is personified as a cold unseen stranger who stalked about the colony touching one person or the other with his icy fingers. On the East Side this ravager(pneumonia) strode boldly smiting his victims by scores. However, he walked slowly through the narrow maze of moss-grown ‘places’. Pneumonia is also personified as a non-chivalric gentleman who was red-fisted, short-breathed old duffer.

11. Johnsy was smitten by Pneumonia and she laid scarcely moving on her painted iron bedstead. She looked through the small Dutch window-panes at the blank side of the next brickhouse.

12. The two friends; Johnsy, also called Joanna and Sue had met at the table d’hote of an Eighth Street ‘Delmonico’s’. One was from Maine and the other was from California. The two friends found their tastes in art, chicory salad and bishop sleeves so congenial that the joint studio resulted at the top of the squatty, three-story brick building.