Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Monkey’s Paw**

1. **What was the difference in the weather within and outside the parlour?**

Ans: Outside the night was cold and wet but in the small parlour of Laburnam Villa, it was warmer as the blinds were drawn and there was a fire burning too.

1. **Why did Mr White start cursing the location of the house? What points did he say to substantiate his point?**

Ans: Mr White had started cursing the house because he was irritated that his son had defeated him in a game of chess. He wasn’t able to digest the fact but at the same time wasn’t able to show it. He said that of all the beastly, slushy, out of the way places to live in, that was the worst. He added that perhaps just because there are only two houses available for rent (let) it didn’t matter to the authorities to repair the roads.

1. **Why did Mrs White say “Never mind , dear, perhaps you’ll win the next one.”?**

Ans: When Mr White lost the game , he was upset but didn’t show it and started complaining about the place where they lived. Mrs White realised that the real reason for the frustration was the fact that he had lost the game. Thus she made the above comment.

1. **What did Mr White wish to do on hearing the Sergeant Major Morris?**

Ans: On hearing the Sergeant Major Morris , Mr White wished to go to India himself just to look round a bit.

1. **How did Morris react to Mr White’s wish to visit India? Why do you thing he said so?**

Ans: When Mr White wished to visit India, Morris told him that he was better where he was and shook his head. He must have said so because he must have had some bad experiences while he was in India and he did not want his friend to go through the same.

1. **What description about the monkey’s paw was given by Sergeant Major Morris?**

Ans: The Sergeant said that it was an ordinary dry paw, dried to a mummy.

1. **What was special about the monkey’s paw?**

Ans: It had a spell put on it by an old fakir, who wanted to show that those who interfered with fate did so to their sorrow. He put a spell on it so that three separate men could each have three wishes from it.

1. **How had Morris got the paw?**

Ans: The man who had possessed the paw before Morris had made the third wish for death. It was granted and thus Morris got the paw.

1. **Why did Morris still have the paw with him?**

Ans: Morris had wanted to sell the paw to someone as he wanted to get rid of it. But the paw had caused enough mischief already. Besides, people thought it was a fairy tale. Thus the paw was still with him.

1. **What happened as soon as Mr White made the first wish?**

Ans: As soon as Mr White made his first wish, the paw twisted in his hand like a snake . Mr White was started and gave out a shuddering cry and dropped the paw on the floor. On hearing the cry, Mrs White and Herbert ran toward Mr White.

1. **What did Herbert tell his father before leaving for work the next morning?**

Ans: Before leaving for work the next morning , Herbert told his father not to start spending the money before he( Herbert) was back. He further sarcastically warned his father that he was afraid it would turn him into a mean man and they would have to disown him.

1. **What was mysterious about the body language of the visitor before he entered the house of Mr White?**

Ans: The movements of the visitor were mysterious. Three times he paused at the gate, then with sudden resolution he flung it open and walked up the path.

1. **What did Mrs White persuade Mr White to do in the third part of the story?**

Ans: Mrs White persuaded Mr White to wish the second wish and bring their dead son back.

1. **Did the Whites believe that the story about the paw could be true? How do we know?**

Ans: Initially the Whites didn’t believe in the story about the paw being true. We see Mrs White saying that the entire story about Monkey’s Paw sounds like Arabian Nights and mockingly she asks if she could get four pairs of hands to decrease her load of work. The husband removed the talisman from the pocket and the three burst into laughter.

1. Mention the contrast in the parlour room as mentioned at the end of part one and the beginning of part two of the story.

Ans: At the end of part one Mrs and Mr White retire to bed and Herbert waits behind and is seen sitting alone in the darkness gazing at the dying fire for a while. He too later on goes to bed. Maybe the writer has used the word ‘dying fire’ to point out that it would be last night for Herbert.

In the beginning of part two of the story, there was an air of prosaic wholesomeness about the room which had lacked the previous night.

1. **What was the purpose of the visitor coming down to the Whites?**

Ans:The visitor had come from Maw and Meggins firm to inform about the death of their only son Herbert and to convey their sincere sympathy in their great loss. He also informed the old couple that the firm admit no liability at all and they wished to present them a certain sum as a compensation.

1. **What was the old man’s third wish? Was it fulfilled? Give evidence from the story to substantiate.**

Ans: The old man’s third wish was probably about ceasing of knocking on the door or disappearance of the spirit of his son. Yes it was fulfilled, as the moment he breathed his third and the last wish frantically, the knocking ceased. He heard the chair drawn back and the door opened and a loud wail of disappointment and misery from his wife. This meant that there was no one at the door.