Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Question Bank: The West Wind

1. **How is the west wind described? Which emotions does the poet feel the moment he hears the west wind?**

The west wind is described as warm and it is full of birds’ cries. He feels nostalgic and homesick. He says that he never hears the west wind but the memory of the wind brings tears to his eyes.

1. **Describe the west land during the spring season**

The west land is a fine land which has old brown hills. The air is like wine. There are apple orchards, flowers like daffodils, violets and white may. The wild bees, larks and birds like thrushes who are fluting from the nest. The grass is described to cool and green where men can lie at rest. The west land is full of crops like young corn and green wheat.

1. **What sounds can be heard during the spring time in the west land?**

Thrushes, birds’ cries, wild bees, larks are singing; are the sounds that can be heard during the spring time in the west land.

1. **What effect do the wild bees and the merry spring generate?**

To hear the wild bees is like a song to a man’s soul and to see the merry spring again provides fire (energy) to a man’s brain. It revitalises or rejuvenates a person.

1. **What is the air of the west land compared to? Why?**

The air of the west land is compared to the wine as it is intoxicating.

1. **In what way can the west wind have a therapeutic effect?**

The west wind provides a balm which has a therapeutic effect for the bruised hearts and it provides rest for aching eyes.

1. **Which road should the poet take, according to him? Why?**

The poet should take white road westwards as it has cool green grass and it is resting place for the heart and head for its natives.

1. **What impression do you form of the poet’s reason of writing the poem specially looking at the end of the poem?**

Looking at the end of the poem, we understand that he misses his homeland, the land where he belongs and thus expresses his nostalgia or homesickness through this poem.

1. **Who are two speakers in the poem? What is the relation between the two?**

The two speakers in the poem are the poet himself and the west wind. The west wind addresses the poet as his brother. It is because the poet was born and brought up in the west land from where the west wind comes.

**Reference to context**

1. **‘I’ve a balm for bruised hearts, brother, sleep for aching eyes.’**
   1. Who is ‘I’ here?
   2. Whom does the word ‘brother’ refer to?
   3. Mention the figure of speech in the given line.
2. a. ‘I’, here, is the west wind.
3. The word ‘brother’ refers to the poet as these lines are spoken by the west wind.
4. Personification- The human quality of speaking is given to the west wind.
5. In the fine land, the west land, the land where I belong…
   1. Who is the speaker of this line?
   2. How has the poet described the west land in this stanza?
   3. Who runs in the corn field? How is the corn field described?
6. a. The poet is speaker of these lines.
7. The west land is a fine land where one can see cool and green grass, it’s for the heart and the head to rest. One can hear the thrushes’ song, see violets, warm hearts. The poet says that he must tread the white road westwards to go to the west land where he belongs.
8. The rabbits run in the corn field and the corn fields are young and green.