Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment (This is going to Hurt just a little bit)

1. Justify: The poet-speaker uses humour to deal with his fear. Give instances from the poem.

Ans: He plays with words when he says he will never have to go again is the hope that he is hoping for. Uses rhyming words to create humour while saying physical and dental problems are mental. Talks of positions that are of lower dignity. Compares the mouth to a road where construction takes place. Probably uses pun for ‘cement’ and ‘drills’. Compares the dentist to ursa bear. Again a word play that if one doesn’t want to visit a dentist (for a treatment) one should visit him (for precautions).

1. Why are finger-nails making alterations in your palm?

Ans: When the dentist is working on your teeth and to retain your calm you make serious alterations in your life line or love line by folding your fist.

1. The mouth of the patient is compared to what? Which different vehicles are mentioned in the poem by the poet?

Ans: the mouth of the patient is compared to a road. Mixers, drills and steam rollers are mentioned.

1. Explain: Some tortures are physical and some are mental.

Ans: When a person visits a dentist for the treatment, the pain and torture is physical as it hurts our jaw, gums, cheeks and even our head. Also, the nervousness, the fear grips us badly. Hence the line is being used that some tortures are physical and mental.

1. What is that the poet hates and what is his hope?

Ans: The poet hates to sit in a dentist’s chair with his mouth wide open and he hopes that he never has to repeat it again.

1. How does the poet define the dental problem?

Ans: The poet defines that the dental problem is both a mental and physical problem. As it affects the body and the person’s mind too.

1. What are the three difficult things, according to the poet?

Ans: To be self-possessed, to retain one’s calm, to give your usual effect of cheery benignity.

1. According to the poet, what confusion can flutter in the dentist’s mind?

Ans: A confusion can flutter that what if the dentist is confused with the reflection in the mirror and gets mixed up between the left and the right side just like while tying a tie.

1. What does the poet think after the treatment is over? How does the dentist contradict his patient?

Ans: The poet thinks that he would not have to come back again as it is over and it was only once. But the dentist tells him to come back in three months.

1. According to the poet, why is this called a vicious circle?

Ans: It is a vicious circle because the poet doesn’t want to visit the dentist but has to visit the dentist. He means that he doesn’t want to visit the dentist for the treatment but for that he has to visit the dentist in order to keep his teeth in check.