**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

**Paraphrase of the poem ‘The Inchcape Rock’**

This poem illustrates the proverb ‘Where there is a will, there is a way’ or ‘What goes around comes around.’

The poem starts with a calm weather where there is no movement in the air and the sea and so the sails and keel are steady too. The waves are flowing over the Inchcape Rock so smoothly that they cause no impact and thus they don’t move the Inchcape Bell.

The story goes that Abbot of Aberbrothok had tied a bell to a buoy which would float and swing. And when it would be stormy it would give its warning ring. On hearing the bell, many mariners were able to save their lives and thus would bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok.

So now going back to the calm weather- The sun was shining brightly and all things were joyful on that day. The sea-birds screamed as they were flying in circles and their screams or chirps had happiness in their sound.

Sir Ralph the rover came on the deck of this ship. He fixed his eye on the darker speck. The darker speck was the buoy of the Inchcape Rock. As soon as he saw it, he felt a cheerful power of spring (he felt enthusiastic and happy). This happiness made him whistle and sing. His heart was full of happiness however this happiness was out of wickedness.

He fixed his eye on the buoy and told his men to put the boat and to take him to the Inchcape Rock so that he would cut the bell and spoil Abbot’s name. His men follow his instructions, they put out the boat and they go to the Inchcape Rock where Ralph bends over and cuts the bell. The bell sinks with a gurgling sound, the bubbles rose and burst around. Ralph says that the next sailor who comes will never bless the Abbot (as the sailor will not survive to do so).

Sir Ralph moves away from the Rock and he plunders wealth from other ships. Now grown rich he is coming back towards the Scotland shore. Now as he is approaching, the weather turns foul. That is the nature’s signal of the situation turning against the Rover.

A very thick haze spreads over the sky. They cannot see the sun that is on high. The wind had blown all day but at evening it had died away. Rover now again takes his position on the deck but it is so dark he can see no land. He says that it will be lighter soon as the Moon is about to rise.

One of the sailors responds that as he can hear the breakers roaring he can assume that they should be near the shore. The Rover continues to say that he cannot guess but he wishes to be close to the Inchcape Bell.

They hear no sound (of the bell), the waves are strong though the wind had fallen their ship was drifting along (due to the water current). The ship suddenly then strikes and starts shivering and Ralph mutters that it was the Inchcape Rock.

On knowing this, Sir Ralph tears his hair and he curses himself in fright and despair. The waves start rushing on all the sides and now the ship starts sinking beneath the tide (waves).

Even while dying, in his fear, there was one dreadful sound that he could hear. The dreadful sound was of the Inchcape Bell and it seemed to be him as if the devil below in the hell was ringing the knell (funeral bell).

The last sentence means as he was drowning in the sea he was also going in the hell due to his bad deed. The devil was ringing the knell but Rover’s guilt reminded him of the Inchcape Bell.