Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Face on the Wall ( Answer Key )**

Answer the following :

1. What was the topic of discussion among the narrator and his friends? Where had they met ?

Ans. The narrator and his friends were talking about paranormal incidents or events which had no logical explanations. They had met at Dabney’s.

2. Whom did the narrator notice among the people? What was peculiar about him? What did Dabney tell him?

Ans. The narrator noticed a little man with an anxious face .He watched each speaker very attentively but said nothing. Dabney wanted to include him in the talk and so turned to him and asked if he didn’t have any experience or story which had no explanation.

3. Where was the stranger staying a year or two ago ? What thing did he notice there? Why was it unusual?

Ans. A year or two ago the stranger was staying in a rented room in an old house in Great Ormond Street in London. He noticed that the bedroom walls had been painted by the previous tenant but the place was damp and there were great patches on the walls. One of the patches was exactly like a face. The strange thing was that while the other patches grew larger and changed their shapes, the one that looked like a face never did.

4. When and how did the face get a firmer hold on the stranger? What did he start believing?

Ans. Once the stranger fell ill with influenza and had to stay in bed all day. Since he had nothing to do except read or think, he would keep gazing at the face. It was then that the face began to get a firmer hold on the stranger. He started believing that the real man with that face must exist and must be connected with him and that he must meet him.

5. How did the search for the face become a madness with the stranger?

Ans. Since the stranger believed that the man with the face must be existing in reality and that he was connected to him in some way, he wanted to meet him. He began his frantic search for the man. He went to places where people gather in large numbers. He stood at busy corners watching the crowd until people thought he was mad and the police started suspecting him . Thus the search for the face became a madness with the stranger.

6. Where did the stranger finally see the man? What did he do on seeing him?

Ans. Finally the stranger saw the man in a taxi driving east along Piccadilly. He immediately followed him in another taxi to Charing Cross where the man boarded a train to Folkstone. The stranger tried to catch him on the boat before it sailed. But the man got on the ship and disappeared into a large private cabin. Finally he too boarded the ship.

7. Describe in brief the encounter of the stranger with the man?

Ans. When the stranger boarded the ship , he entered into a large private cabin. The stranger too got on to the ship and sat opposite his cabin door waiting for the man to come out. After an hour he came out but with the little girl. The stranger approached him hesitantly and asked for his card telling him that there was an important reason in asking for it. Though the man was surprised , he handed the stranger his card and hurried in.

8. What was the outcome of the stranger’s meeting with the man? After that what did the stranger do to find out more about the man?

Ans. When the stranger finally met the man, he asked him for his card. When he read the card, he saw that the man’s name was Mr. Ormond Wall from Pittsburgh, USA. The stranger’s fainted and found himself in a hospital at Boulogne where he stay in a broken condition for some weeks. After he returned to Ormond Street , he set to find out all he could about the American. He wrote to Pittsburgh and to American editors and also made friends with Americans in London.

9. What happened to the patch on the wall on the day before the discussion took place? How was this connected to the man he had met?

Ans. One day before the discussion about paranormal activities took place at Dabney’s, the stranger saw that the face on the wall was faintly visible Later in the day, when he read the newspaper, he read the man to whom the face belonged, Mr. Ormond Wall had met with an accident and was critical .Again after sometime he saw that the face had completely disappeared. It was strange that he later learnt that the man had died.

10. What were the three extraordinary things about the stranger’s story?

Ans. There were three extraordinary things about the stranger’s story. One that it was amazing that a patch on the wall of a house in London resembled the features of a gentleman in America and also had a close association with the man’s life. The second thing was that the gentleman’s name had a relation to the spot on which his face reproduced itself on the wall by some unknown agency. The third extraordinary thing was that the stranger had made up the story about half an hour before the discussion had started.