Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Life

ANSWER KEY

1. What, according to the poetess, life is not? What do the sages say?

Ans: According to the poetess, life is not a dream. The sages say it is a dark dream.

1. What does a little morning rain foretell?

Ans: A little morning rain often foretells a pleasant day.

1. In the first stanza, what, according to the poetess, are ‘transient’? What does she imply by that?

Ans: According to the poetess, clouds of gloom are transient. She implies that darkness or gloom is temporary and does not last for a long time.

1. Explain: “O why lament its fall?” What is the poetess talking about?

‘It’ here refers to rainfall. The poetess says that if rainfall makes the roses bloom then why should we lament or grieve when it rains.

1. What flit by merrily? Why do we need to enjoy them gratefully as they fly?

Ans: Life’s sunny hours flit by merrily. We should enjoy them gratefully as these sunny hours fly rapidly.

1. Who calls our ‘Best’ away? Which figure of speech is used here?

Ans: Death calls our ‘Best’ away. Personification is used here as ‘Death’ is given the human quality of calling.)

1. What seems to win over hope? How?

Ans: Sorrow seems to win over hope. It wins over hope with a heavy sway, that is, with a heavy influence or power.

1. How has the poetess described hope?

Ans: The poetess says that hope springs elastically and unconquered after falling. She has golden wings which are still buoyant and strong to bear us well.

1. What is to be borne manfully and fearlessly?

Ans: The day of trial is to be borne manfully and fearlessly. ‘The day of trial’ here refers to difficult times.

1. What can quell despair? How?

Ans: Courage can quell despair. It can do so gloriously and victoriously.

1. Justify the title ‘Life.’

Ans: The title ‘Life’ is very apt because the poetess talks about how there are ups and downs in our life and how happiness and sorrow both are temporary. The poem also talks about fearlessly fighting tough times and how to not lose hope in face of dark times.