Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM**

**Std VIII-BB Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**Solve any 5 of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

***Question 1: 16***

***“And then he drank a dew”***

1. Who does ‘he’ refer to ? Where did he drink a dew from? 2

Ans: In the above line ‘he’ refers to a bird. He drank a dew from the grass which had enough of dew.

1. Where was ‘he’? What had he done before drinking the dew? 3

Ans: The bird (he) had come down a path. It had swallowed an angle-worm into two halves

and had eaten it raw.

1. After drinking the dew, what did he do? 3

Ans: After drinking the dew, he (the bird) had hopped sidewise to the wall to let a

beetle pass.

1. What did the poetess offer ‘him’? How? 3

Ans: The poetess offered him (the bird) a crumb. She offered it cautiously so that she did

not frighten the bird.

1. Did ‘he’ take what was offered by the poetess? Why? What does this signify? 3

Ans: No, the bird did not take what was offered by the poetess. Firstly he had been satiated

after eating the worm. More importantly, he was frightened that the poetess may harm him

or seize him and put in a cage to tame him. This shows that a creature will feast on its weaker counterpart but will be frightened of someone stronger than it.

1. Write the meanings of : a) angle- worm b) plashless 2

Ans: a) a worm that is used as bait in fishing b) smoothly, without splashing

***Question 2: 16***

***“The garrulous waves ceaselessly talked of hidden treasures”***

1. Who was standing near the ocean? Describe him. 3

Ans: An old wandering madman was standing near the ocean. He was wandering

seeking the touchstone. He had matted locks tawny and dust laden and a body that

had worn to a shadow. His eyes were tight-pressed like the shut up doors of his heart

and his burning eyes were like the lamp of a glow worm seeking its mate.

1. What were the waves doing? Explain the figure of speech that is mentioned. 3

Ans: The waves were ceaselessly talking of the hidden treasures and mocking the ignorance that the madman did not know the meaning of the hidden treasures. The figure of speech used here is personification as the waves have been given the human quality of talking and mocking.

1. What is the figurative meaning of ‘hidden treasures’? 2

Ans: The figurative (symbolical) meaning of ‘hidden treasures’ is the good things or opportunities in life that a man comes across but does not realise the value.

1. What is the search of the madman compared to? 3

Ans: The endless search of the madman is compared to two things. Firstly it is compared to the action of the ocean which lifts its arms to the sky for the unattainable, that is to meet the sky (horizon). The search is also compared to the stars in the sky which seem to keep moving aimlessly in circles.

1. The madman had no hope remaining yet he continued his search. Why? 2

Ans: Although the madman had no hope remaining, he continued his search because it had become his life.

1. Write meanings: a) tawny b) garrulous c) frail 3

Ans: a) yellowish- brown b) talkative c) weak

***Question 3: 16***

***Stop here , or gently pass!***

1. Whom did the poet see? Where did he see him/her? What was she doing? 3

Ans : The poet saw a Highland lass in a field. The Highland lass was reaping and

singing by herself.

1. To whom does the poet say ‘to stop here, or gently pass’? Why does he say so? 2

Ans: The poet tells the people passing by to stop there or gently pass. As the Highland

lass ( the solitary reaper ) is singing , he does not want anyone to disturb her.

1. The song is compared to which two birds? Bring out the comparison. 4

Ans: The song is compared to a nightingale whose welcome notes soothe the weary

bands of travellers in Arabian sands. It is compared to the song of a cuckoo-bird.

The reaper’s voice is more thrilling than the cuckoo bird and it breaks the silence

of the seas of Hebrides.

1. What are the different assumptions that the poet makes about the theme of the

poem? 2

Ans: The poet feels that the plaintive numbers flow probably for old unhappy far-off things and battles long ago. The songs could also be about some natural sorrow, loss or pain of to-day.

1. Did the song create an everlasting effect on the poet? Give reasons for your answer. 3

Ans: Yes, the song did create an everlasting effect on the poet. We come to know this because the music remained in his heart though he mounted up the hill and the music

still echoed in his heart even long after it was heard no more.

1. Name and explain the figure of speech in the above line: 2

Ans: Antithesis: Two opposite words ‘stop’ and ‘pass’ are given,

***Question 4: 16***

**“Well, it’s just a bit of magic, perhaps.”**

1. Who said the above to whom? 2

Ans: The above line was said by the sergeant- major Morris to Mr White and his family.

1. What does ‘it’ refer to in the above line? Describe ‘it’ and also mention its special

feature. 2

Ans: ‘It’ refers to the monkey’s paw. It was an ordinary paw, dried to a mummy. It had a spell put on it by an old fakir, who wanted to show that those who interfered with fate did so to their sorrow. According to the spell three separate men could each have three wishes from it.

1. How had the speaker got the paw? Why did he still have it with him? 4

Ans: The man who had possessed the paw before the speaker, the sergeant- major

Morris, had made the third wish for death. It was granted and thus Morris got the paw. Morris had wanted to sell the paw to someone as he wanted to get rid of it. But the

paw had caused enough mischief already. Besides, people thought it was a fairy tale.

Thus the paw was still with him.

1. Did the Whites believe that the story about the paw could be true? 4

How do we know?

Ans: Initially the Whites didn’t believe in the story about the paw being true. We see Mrs White saying that the entire story about Monkey’s Paw sounds like Arabian Nights and mockingly she asks if she could get four pairs of hands to decrease her load of work. The husband removed the talisman from the pocket and the three burst into laughter.

1. What was the old man’s third wish? Was it fulfilled? Give evidence from the story to substantiate. 4

Ans: The old man’s third wish was probably about ceasing of knocking on the door or disappearance of the spirit of his son. Yes it was fulfilled, as the moment he breathed his third and the last wish frantically, the knocking ceased. He heard the chair drawn back and the door opened and a loud wail of disappointment and misery from his wife. This meant that there was no one at the door.

***Question 5: 16***

***“Thank you! Now I’ll go home. You were very kind.”***

1. Who said the above line to whom? What did the speaker thank the person for? 3

Ans: The girl ( a fugitive), who had come inside the gate of the courtyard , said the above line to the sentry at the gate. She thanked him for allowing her to look for her cat which had gone into the courtyard.

1. What did the speaker do after saying the above line? 4

Ans: After saying the above line, the girl did not move. She kept looking at him still, her lips parted , her eyes enormous and shy and wary. After some time she and the sentry both heard the sudden light impact of feet as though someone had dropped from the high wall of Town Hall.

1. On what pretext had the speaker come there? What was the real reason? Who had

come with her? 3

Ans: The speaker, a girl of fifteen, had come there on the pretext of looking for

her cat which had gone inside the courtyard. In reality, though a cat had gone in, it wasn’t

hers. He had made the excuse to engage the sentry so that her companion, a boy could

enter inside the gate. Both, the children had come there to replace the British flag with

their own native flag.

1. What happened after the fugitives escaped? 3

Ans: After the fugitives had escaped, the people around came pouring into the courtyard as the sentry had given out a shout of rage and alarm before he knew he had. They found the sentry mopping his face and saw a long violet stain upon the ground and the coils of the severed rope dangling at the foot of the flagstaff. The people got the Major out of the bed and the sentry reported to him with every excuse he could think of.

1. What did the Major say about the person who had accompanied the speaker? 3

Ans: The Major thought that the person who had accompanied the speaker (the fugitive) had worked extremely fast as he had left about ten feet of the flagstaff coiled round with barbed wire. The Major also said that the fugitive must have spent a longer time practising the movements involved before he could reproduce them at that speed.

***Question 6: 16***

***“Hush!”***

1. Who said the above to whom? Why did the speaker say so? 3

Ans: Mrs Packletide said the above line to her companion Louisa Mebbin. The speaker had been waiting for the tiger to come so that she could shoot it. Miss Mebbin had been speaking to her when the tiger arrived on the scene. Thus she told her (Miss Mebbin ) to keep quiet so that the tiger doesn’t get alerted.

1. Who was the listener? Was she really devoted to the speaker? How did she

behave during the tiger shooting ? 4

Ans**.** The listener**,** Ms. Mebbin was Mrs. Packletide’s paid companion. No, she wasn’t devoted to Mrs. Packletide. She was only loyal towards money. During the shooting of the tiger, Miss Mebbin kept thinking whether they had paid more than required to the villagers for the tiger. It was Ms. Mebbin who revealed to Mrs. Packletide that the goat was shot dead instead of the tiger and that the tiger had actually died from a heart-attack.

1. What comment did the listener make after the shot had been fired? 3

Ans: After the shot was fired , it was the listener, Louisa Mebbin, who had drawn Mrs Packletide’s attention to the fact that the goat was shot dead instead of the tiger and that the tiger had died due to heart failure caused by the sudden report of the rifle as well as due to the senile decay ( old age) of the animal.

1. The speaker bought a week-end cottage? How did she get it? Why did she plant so many tiger-lilies in her garden? 4

Ans**.** Miss Mebbin blackmailed Mrs. Packletide in order to procure the weekend cottage. She said that she would let out the secret that the tiger had actually died of a heart attack and not as a result of Mrs. Packletide's skill of shooting. Mrs. Packletide finally gave in to her demands and Miss Mebbin was successful in getting her weekend cottage. Miss Mebbin planted many tiger-lilies in order to remind herself how she had procured the cottage.

1. Write meanings: a) death- throes b) primeval 2

Ans: a) spasms at the time of death b) ancient, primitive