Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: The Ant-Lion (The Answer Key)

1. **What does Morvenna try to do in the beginning of the story? Why?**

Ans: Morvenna tries to push the ant up the shifting sand-slope of the pit by suddenly thrusting the end of a twig. She realised that the ant was not able to any hold to move out of the pit and wanted to save the ant.

1. **How did her brother try to oppose her action? Why?**

Ans: Max, her brother, lying opposite her, filled his cheeks with air and blew hard. He wanted to see what happens when the ant-lion attacks the little ant.

1. **Who is the ‘little fury of jaws’? What does it do? What marked ant’ the last struggle?**

Ans: ‘Little fury of jaws’ refers to the ant lion. The moment ant fell back to the bottom of the pit, the ant-lion burst out at it, seized it and vanished it. Only a flurry of sand in the bottom of the little pit marked for a few seconds the ant’s last struggle.

1. **How many ants had the children given? What was the next plan?**

Ans: The children had already given three ants but they were little ones. Max wanted to give a meat-ant now to see what the ant-lion does.

1. **From where does he get the meat-ant? How does he get it to the ant-pit? Why?**

Ans: Max gets the meat-ant from the ant-hill on a twig that he was holding and turning gingerly from one end to another. He did so as the meat ants could bite.

1. **What happened after Max brought the meat-ant to the pit?**

Ans: After Max had brought the meat-ant to the pit, Max shook the twig hard over the pit but the ant wouldn’t leave. It was obstinate and it clung to the twig. That made Max angry and determinedly he finally dislodged it with a blade of grass.

1. **Why does Max say ‘Now we will see some sport’?**

Ans: Although the ant-lion is smaller than the meat ant, the ant-lion is stronger and it easily preys upon the meat ant. The struggle between the two would be worth- watching thus Max says these lines.

1. **What had the meat-lion thought about the sand? Why?**

Ans: The meat-ant was puzzled at the sand as how it managed to slip away so treacherously and persistently as it tried to climb.

1. **Did the meat-ant easily give up? Justify with the lines from the text.**

Ans: No, the meat ant refused to give up easily. Even though the sand would slip away again and again, it kept continuing its efforts. It did even try to gather all its strength and made a rush to the slope. Later, when the ant grew tired and tired it was clearly in panic yet worked frantically. The ant-lion had successfully seized the meat any by one leg yet the ant was putting out a desperate effort.

1. **Although the meat-ant made a little headway in saving its life, why was it not successful?**

Ans: Although the meat-ant made a little headway in saving its life, the weight of the ant-lion which referred as ‘grub-like creature’ braced against him too much and he could find nothing to grip.

1. **Why did Morvenna want to save the meat-ant? Did she really save it? Why?**

Ans: Morvenna wanted to save the meat-ant as her mother would call this act as cruelty to animals. No, she did not save it. She felt ashamed of the entire scene but she was also enraptured at the same time.

1. **Describe the last struggle between the ant-lion and its prey.**

Ans: As the meat-ant grew weaker and slower, his struggle was more spasmodic. The ant-lion released meat-ant’s leg and attacked for the ant’s body. He seized it by the abdomen. There was a wild scurry in the pit now, the ant rearing in the fountaining sand.

1. **What was the strangest thing according to Morvenna? Was that afternoon different from other days? Justify.**

Ans: Silence was the strangest thing, according to Morvenna. The afternoon continued like usual; a wagtail hopped on the fence, other ants ran placidly minding their own business, the creek below made its endless liquid noise over the rocks. However, for Max and Morvenna silence had prevailed everywhere as they were completely engrossed in the soundless struggle.

1. **Why did Max stand up not looking at the pit or Morvenna?**

Ans: Max stood up not looking at the pit or Morvenna as he felt extremely guilty and exasperated for whatever he had done to kill the meat-ant and other ants at the hand of the ant-lion.

1. **Mention lines from the story that tell us that Max and Morvenna’s concentration was directed towards the battle alone.**

Ans: a. In their minds the ant and its arena of battle enlarged, filled the whole world.

b. The battle swayed.

c. Round them the afternoon continued.

d. To the two children all had shrunk to the dimensions of the pit and the creatures

in it

1. **Give few evidences that show Max was guilty.**

Ans: a. He refused to get Harry down and show the ant-lion to him

b. He avoided looking at the pit or Morvenna

c. He said ‘Enough is enough’

d. Max detached himself from the scene, from the afternoon, from Morvenna and

ran faster and faster.

e. He stopped far away from the pit.