Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: B Wordsworth

1. Who came punctually every day to Miguel Street? What did they ask for?

Ans: Three beggars came punctually to Miguel Street. Indian man wearing a dhoti and white jacket would ask for a tin of rice. An old woman would ask for a cent and a blind man led by a boy would beg for a penny.

1. Why are those visitors called ‘punctual’? At what time would they arrive?

Ans: Those visitors are called punctual because they would come at the exact time every day. The Indian man would come at ten, the old woman would come at twelve whereas the blind man with a boy would come at two.

1. Why is B. Wordsworth called ‘a strange caller’? How was he different from others?

Ans: He is called ‘strange caller’ because he was unlike others. He didn’t ask for money or food but he only wanted to observe bees in the garden.

1. How was his language different from that of the natives?

Ans: His language is different from that of the natives. His language was clear and perfect whereas the others spoke a dialect of English.

1. Why did the little boy give company to the stranger? For what?

Ans: The little boy gave company to the stranger as there was an element of mistrust and the mother didn’t really trust that this weird stranger only wanted to observe bees. He gave company to the man to observe bees on the gru-gru palm trees.

1. What are the different things that the man would observe?

The man would observe the bees, the ants, the scorpions, the centipedes and congorees.

1. What was the name of the man? How did he explain the meaning?

Ans: The name of the man was B. Wordsworth or Black Wordsworth. He says that White Wordsworth was his brother and that they shared one heart.

1. What answer does the little boy provide on behalf of his mother about buying the poetry? Was he justified to lie?

Ans: About buying the poetry, the little boy had to lie on behalf of his mother. The mother had asked her son to tell him to leave the place. But finding it rude, the little boy changes the answer to more sophisticated and kinder one. Yes, he was right in lying although it is wrong to lie. As the true response would have sounded very unhospitable and mean.

1. What is the poet’s tragedy, according to the man?

Ans: According to the man, the poet’s tragedy is that nobody likes poetry. Hence he feels that people have rejected his poetry.

1. Describe the place where he lived.

Ans: He lived in Alberto Street in a one-roomed hut placed right in the centre of the lot. The yard was full of greenery. There were a mango tree, coconut and a plum tree. The place looked wild as though it wasn’t in the city at all. One couldn’t see all the big concrete houses in the street.

1. What do you understand about the mother’s personality? Was she correct to hit the little boy?

Ans: The mother is very short tempered or frustrated. It could be because of the economic downturn in Trinidad. No, it is not right to hit the little boy as one can see that the boy turned really hostile towards his own mother. He told B. Wordsworth who was a stranger that time that he liked his mother only when she didn’t hit him. And once she beat him so bad that he promised to never return back.

1. Mention an instance to show the power of nature.

Ans: When the boy was hit badly by his mother and when his nose bled, he ran out of the house. He met B.Wordsworth and they went out for a walk. When B. Wordsworth suggested to lie down and look up at the sky he forgot all his pain, anger, tears and blows.

1. Which question is the man asking himself? For how long? Why?

Ans: The man is asking a question to himself since forty years what he has been doing in this world. The narrator probably is going through an existential crisis and hence is questioning his entire existence, the purpose of life and the value of it.

1. The world became a most exciting place. Explain this line.

Ans: The boy who had answered that he had no time to observe nature seems to be now interested in looking at things in a different perspective. For example, when he looked at the sky, he would only see stars but now he is able to see the constellation.

1. Which were the two secrets that the man shared with the little boy?

Ans: the first secret that the little boy should never tell anyone about him, the mango tree, coconut and the plum tree. Second, that he was writing the greatest poem in the world.

1. Which story did the man say on his death bed? Was the story really funny?

Ans: The story about the boy poet and the girl poet, about the poem and all, was a lie. No, it wasn’t funny. He says this as he is very disheartened as he lay in the bed dying without achieving the purpose of his life.

1. What happened after a year? What did the boy observe?

Ans: After a year, when the little boy walked along the Alberto Street, he didn’t see any sign of the poet’s house. It had vanished just like that. It had been demolished and a big two-storeyed building had taken place. The trees of mango, coconut, plum all had been cut down and there were concrete and brick everywhere.

1. What is the message of the story?

Ans: The message of the story is that the poetry is unappreciated. The poet Wordsworth teaches the true essence of life, how nature and its observance makes life more meaningful and beautiful.