Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Hero**

1. **Which line indicates that the poem is a boy’s fantasy?**

**Ans:** ‘Mother, let us imagine……’ This line indicates that the poem is a boy’s fantasy. He wants his mother to imagine a certain situation.

1. **Why does the boy want his mom to imagine ‘a strange and dangerous country’?**

**Ans:** The boy wants his mom to imagine ‘a strange and dangerous country’ to heighten his bravery and courage in the backdrop of adversity. More the adverse circumstances, more a person gets to prove his mettle.

1. **Describe the setting of the story and justify the reason for the setting.**

**Ans:** It is the evening time, the land around is desolate and barren. The wasteland of Joradighi lies wan and grey before them. The meadow is prickly with spiky grass and through it runs a narrow broken path. It is darker and dimmer and they cannot see anything ahead. The setting is dangerous, adventurous so that the story that the little boy imagines proves to be thrilling and he can show his valour and gallantry.

1. **What does the little boy answer when the mother expresses her fear of the unknown place?**

**Ans:** When the mother expresses her fear, the little boy bravely comforts her and says not to worry. He wanted to assure her that in his presence she would be sound and safe.

1. **Who are the figures in the story? How do they look?**

**Ans:** The figures in the story are tribals or dacoits who are carrying long sticks and their hair is wild about their heads.

1. **How is the mother sitting in the palanquin and what does it show?**

**Ans:** As the tribal approach towards them, the mother crouches in the palanquin. It shows she is scared and frightened.

1. **Is the mother spiritual? Which line in the poem proves that?**

**Ans:** Yes the mother is spiritual. She starts repeating the names of the Gods in prayer.

1. **How would the villagers and the boy’s brother react?**

**Ans:** The brother would be surprised to know that his brother is brave as he had been so delicate. Whereas, the villagers would say in amazement that his mother had been lucky as the son had accompanied the mother.

1. **What are the different emotions that the mother goes through in the poem?**

**Ans:** fear, fright, anxiety (when the dacoits attack), pride, love (when her son proves his bravery)

1. **Which light is seen near the bank? What does it signify?**

**Ans:** The light seen is the light of the torch that the dacoits are carrying. The light signifies the arrival of danger and peril.

1. **Explain ‘It would be like a story in a book’.**

**Ans:** This line means, the story has a fairy tale touch to it that sounds legendary. It is imaginary yet a tale of valour, selflessness, love and care.

1. **Character sketch of the boy:**

**Ans:** The hero though frail in appearance cherishes a dream of becoming a hero. He wants to prove his worth to his mother, brother and the villagers. He has a vivid imagination and lives out his dreams through his world of fantasy.