Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Monkey’s Paw

Q1) Why did Mr White start cursing the location of the house? What points did he say to substantiate his point?

Mr White had started cursing the house because he was irritated that his son had defeated him in a game of chess. He wasn’t able to digest the fact but at the same time wasn’t able to show it. He said that of all the beastly, slushy, out of the way places to live in, that was the worst. He added that perhaps just because there are only two houses available for rent (let) maybe it doesn’t matter to the authorities to repair the roads.

Q2) What description about the monkey’s paw was given by Sergeant Major Morris?

2. Ordinary dry paw, dried to a mummy. It had a spell put on it by an old fakir, he wanted to show that those who interfered with fate did so to their sorrow. He put a spell on it so that three separate men could each have three wishes from it.

Q3) What was mysterious about the body language of the visitor before he entered the house of Mr White?

3. The movements were mysterious. Three times he paused at the gate, then with sudden resolution he flung it open and walked up the path.

Q4) What did Mrs White persuade Mr White to do in the third part of the story?

Mrs White persuaded Mr White to wish the second wish and bring their dead son back.

Q5) What was the reaction of Morris when Mr White expressed his wish to visit India?

When Mr White expressed his wish to visit India, he shook his head in a firm no and said that it was better where they were.

Q6) Did the Whites believe that the story about the paw could be true? How do we know?

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.

Q7) Mention the contrast in the parlour room as mentioned at the end of part one and the beginning of part two of the story.

At the end of part one Mrs. and Mr. White retire to bed and Herbert waits behind and is seen sitting alone in the darkness gazing at the dying fire for a while. He too later on goes to bed. Maybe the writer has used the word ‘dying fire’ to point out that it would be last night for Herbert.

In the beginning of part two of the story, there was an air of prosaic wholesomeness about the room which had lacked the previous night.

Q8) What was the purpose of the visitor coming down to the Whites?

The visitor had come from Maw and Meggins firm to inform about the death of their only son Herbert and to convey their sincere sympathy in their great loss. He also informed the old couple the firm admit no liability at all and they wished to present them a certain sum as compensation.

Q9) What was the old man’s third wish? Was it fulfilled? Give evidence from the story to substantiate.

The old man’s third wish was probably about ceasing of knocking on the door or disappearance of the spirit. 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.