Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAMINATION**

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

**Section A- Prose**

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

***Question 1 10***

1. Swallow. He hopped inside the woman’s house on the table beside the thimble. She was a seamstress.

1. The bird flew round the bed gently and fanned the boy’s forehead with his wings.
2. Ruby- to the seamstress, first sapphire- young writer, second sapphire- to the little match girl
3. The two most precious things i.e. little bird and the Happy Prince will sing in His Garden of Paradise and praise Him, respectively.

**Question 2 10**

1. Pope wanted to know from Michelangelo why he wasn’t able to get any model for Judas. He was not able to believe that in the vast universe that Lord created where no two faces look alike Michelangelo didn’t find faces.
2. Pope looked at pensively at the retreating back of his moody painter i.e. Michelangelo. No, he didn’t reprimand him as he didn’t want any unpleasantness at that stage.
3. Circumstances change people and their behaviour. The child’s face was given to baby Jesus cause of his innocence and the same person’s face was given to Judas cause of his trickery.

**Question 3 10**

1. Grandfather wanted to feed the python with a plucked chicken. Grandfather was followed by the narrator, grandmother, a cook and gardener. They couldn’t see the python anywhere.
2. The grandfather announced that the python had left because he was hungry. The narrator hoped that it wasn’t too hungry. It was observed that the window was left open through which he escaped.
3. The sudden disappearance and appearance made the python conceited. He was found at numerous places and at unexpected places such as the dressing table and even under the cushion.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

***Question 4 12***

1. The poet wishes to see the foam of the ocean billows form whirlwinds of spray. She wishes to see how proudly the waves dash and hear the wild roar of its thunder.
2. The poet is in the woods. The tittle of the poem ‘Lines composed in a wood…’ suggests that.
3. The season is autumn. The long grass is withered. The trees are bare of leaves and they toss their branches. The leaves are dead on the earth beneath the trees that dance. The white clouds are moving in the blue sky.
4. Alliteration- Starting sound is repeated in the words like ‘wild’ and ‘wind’

Personification- Human quality of dancing is given to the leaves

***Question 5***

1. Here, ‘we’ are the mother and her son. The mother is travelling in a palanquin and the son is trotting on a red horse.
2. They are passing through a strange and dangerous country. They pass through the wasteland of Joradighi and the meadow.
3. The cattle gone to their village stalls as it is the evening time. It is evening and the sun goes down. It grows dark and dim.
4. The boy says that if his dream of heroism comes true then his brother would be surprised to know as he was always considered delicate. The villagers would all say in amazement how the mother was lucky that her son accompanied her and saved her life. He wants to be a hero is everybody’s eyes. That is his fantasy.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 6 12***

1. The fence is described to be straggling and the furze blossomed in unnecessarily bright manner. Also the entire poem is given in the past tense except for the first line which is in the present tense.
2. Following key words to be included- Strict, stern, efficient, knowledgeable, good sense of humour, disciplinarian, loved learning, kind and considerate
3. Tautology- stern and severe means the same

Repetition- word ‘still’ is repeated

**Question 6**

**Describe Battle of Cowshed. 14**

Early in October, Jones and all his men, with half a dozen others from Foxwood and Pinchﬁeld, had entered the ﬁve-barred gate and were coming up the cart-track that led to the farm. They were all carrying sticks, except Jones, who was marching ahead with a gun in his hands. A ﬂight of pigeons came whirling through the air and alighted in the yard of Animal Farm in the wildest excitement. Snowball launched his ﬁrst attack. All the pigeons, to the number of thirty-ﬁve, ﬂew to and fro over the men’s heads and muted upon them from mid-air; and while the men were dealing with this, the geese, who had been hiding behind the hedge, rushed out and pecked viciously at the calves of their legs. However, this was only a light skirmishing manoeuvre, intended to create a little disorder, and the men easily drove the geese oﬀ with their sticks. Muriel, Benjamin, and all the sheep, with Snowball at the head of them, rushed forward and prodded and butted the men from every side, while Benjamin turned around and lashed at them with his small hoofs. The men, with their sticks and their hobnailed boots, were too strong for them; and suddenly, at a squeal from Snowball, which was the signal for retreat, all the animals turned and ﬂed through the gateway into the yard. The men gave a shout of triumph. They saw, as they imagined, their enemies in ﬂight, and they rushed after them in disorder. This was just what Snowball had intended. As soon as they were well inside the yard, the three horses, the three cows, and the rest of the pigs, who had been lying in ambush in the cowshed, suddenly emerged in their rear, cutting them oﬀ. Snowball now gave the signal for the charge. He himself dashed straight for Jones. Jones saw him coming, raised his gun and ﬁred. The pellets scored bloody streaks along Snowball’s back, and a sheep dropped dead. Without halting for an instant, Snowball ﬂung his ﬁfteen stone against Jones’s legs. Jones was hurled into a pile of dung and his gun ﬂew out of his hands.Boxer, rearing up on his hind legs and striking out with his great iron-shod hoofs like a stallion. His very ﬁrst blow took a stable-lad from Foxwood on the skull and stretched him lifeless in the mud. Panic overtook them, and the next moment all the animals together were chasing them round and round the yard. They were gored, kicked, bitten and trampled on. There was not an animal on the farm that did not take vengeance on them after his own fashion. The cat suddenly leapt oﬀ a roof onto a cowman’s shoulders and sank her claws in his neck, at which he yelled horribly. When the opening was clear, the men were glad enough to rush out of the yard and make a bolt for the main road. And so within ﬁve minutes of their invasion they were in ignominious retreat by the same way as they had come, with a ﬂock of geese hissing after them and pecking at their calves all the way.