Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Purple Children**

Std VIII BB Marks 20 Duration: 30 mins

Answer the following with Reference to Context:

***Q.1. ‘Puss, puss, puss…Here, pussy!’***

1. **Who was calling out to the cat? Where was the person standing? (2)**

Ans: A little girl was calling out to the cat. She was standing at the gate, with her

hands locked upon the bars.

1. **Describe the sentry. What was he considered by the others? (3)**

Ans: The sentry was eighteen years old, new to the town and ill at ease with his enforced duties there. He was half-dozing on his walk back and forth across the gate when he heard the girl calling out to the cat. The others considered him as the weakest spot in the defences.

1. **Describe the person who came looking for her cat. (3)**

Ans: She was slight, young not more than fifteen years old. She wore a black frock

and her thin small wrists issued pale and strange from the sleeves. Her face was

silvery oval and had dark shining eyes.

1. **What did the sentry say to the person who came looking for her cat? What explanation did the person give for being there at that hour of the day?(4)**

Ans: The sentry warned the girl that she was not allowed to go inside the gate and

that she ought to be in the house at that time of night and asked her if she did not

know about the curfew. The girl told the sentry that she had been in the house but

her cat got out when she had gone to bring wood and that she couldn’t catch her.

**Q.2** ‘***I am looking for a girl of about fifteen…’***

**1. Who said the given line? To whom? Where did this scene take place? (2)**

Ans: The Major said the given line to the schoolmaster. This scene took place at the

entrance hall in the grammar school.

**2. What information did the speaker of the above line give to the listener? (3)**

Ans: The speaker, the Major, told the schoolmaster that they were looking for a girl of about fifteen years old who was sprayed with a local vegetable dye that was purple in colour. He also mentioned that there was a boy with her who would not be recognisable immediately.

**3. What happened when the Major marched inside the assembly hall? (3)**

Ans**:** The Major marched inside the assembly hall with the briskness of complete

confidence, almost of triumph. There were fifty-three young heads, with marvellous

unanimity, who raised to confront him. The Major was looking for a marked outcast

but he saw a regiment, a Pyrrhic phalanx of embattled children, who had their olive

faces splattered from forehead to chin with the resplendent purple of royalty and

mourning.