Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Village Schoolmaster**

1. **How is the surrounding of the school described?**

**Ans:** The surrounding of the school is blossomed with yellow flowers named ‘furze’. They are called ‘unprofitably gay’. The poet also remarks that there is a straggling fence that skirts the way to the school.

1. **Explain: straggling fence and unprofitably gay.**

**Ans:** Straggling fence means irregular fence bordering the village school. It means that there is nobody to maintain the fence. The term unprofitably gay’ means uselessly or unnecessarily bright. The beauty of those bright flowers served no purpose because there was body to admire it.

1. **How is the village schoolmaster described in the first stanza?**

**Ans:** The poet portrays the village schoolmaster to be a disciplinarian. He was a severe and stern man to view. Every student, even a truant, in the school knew him well and that shows his dominating presence and aura.

1. **What had the boding tremblers learned to trace?**

**Ans:** The boding tremblers mean the students who were scared of the village schoolmaster had learned to trace his mood swings and what future lays in store for them. The students could predict the day’s disasters by just watching his face in the morning.

1. **Explain the line "The day’s disaster in his morning face."**

**Ans:** Day's disaster means the misfortunes that were going to occur that day for the students in the school .Morning face means expression seen on schoolmaster's face in the morning.

1. **How would the students laugh at his jokes? Why?**

**Ans:** The students would laugh at his jokes in a counterfeited manner. May be because the terror of the village schoolmaster was such, that they didn’t know whether they were supposed to laugh over a joke or not. Also possibly they would laugh to impress the schoolmaster.

1. **What was the ‘busy whisper’? Why is it called ‘busy’?**

**Ans:** The busy whisper would be about the dismal tidings whenever he frowned. It is described to be ‘busy’ as the students would be busy either spreading it or gossiping about it.

1. **According to the poet, what was the village schoolmaster’s fault?**

**Ans:** According to the poet, the village schoolmaster’s fault was the love that he had for learning. Although he was strict and stern to view, he was very kind at heart. He believed that when it is study-time, students ought to be attentive with no-nonsense attitude.

1. **What had ‘the village’ declared?**

**Ans:** The village, meaning the villagers, had declared how much he knew and how he could write and cipher too.

1. **What was certain about the village schoolmaster?**

**Ans:** It was certain about the schoolmaster that he could write and cipher. He could also measure lands and presage terms and tides.

1. **What story had spread everywhere?**

**Ans:** A story had spread everywhere that he could also gauge that means measure without any instrument. Even the parson owned or accepted his skill of debating intelligently. He would continue to argue even though he would be vanquished.

1. **What amazed the rustics and which wonder grew in them?**

**Ans:** The way he could say words of learned length with a thundering round amazed the rustics that moved around. A wonder would always grow in them that how one’s small head could carry all the knowledge that he had.

1. **Give a character analysis of The Village Schoolmaster.**

**Ans:** Following key words to be included- Strict, stern, efficient, knowledgeable, good sense of humour, disciplinarian, loved learning, kind and considerate

1. **Who is the narrator of the poem, according to you?**

**Ans:** The narrator of the poem could be one of the students, schoolmaster’s colleague or someone who knows the schoolmaster very closely from the same village.