Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment : The Gift of India ( Answer Key)

I. Answer the following:

1. Who is the narrator of the poem ? Who is addressed in the poem?

Ans: The narrator of the poem is Mohter India. The people of the world are addressed in the poem.

1. What question does the narrator ask in the first two lines? What kind of a question is it?

Ans: The narrator asks the world if there is anything that her hands hold back and have not given to the world. It is a rhetorical question as the answer is not expected.

1. What treasures have been torn from the breasts of the speaker?

Ans: The sons of Mother India have been torn from her breasts. These are the sons who have laid their lives in the war.

1. From where has the speaker yielded her sons? Why?

Ans: The speaker has yielded her sons from her injured womb as they have to attend to the call of duty.

1. Where and how have the Indian soldiers been buried?

Ans: The Indian soldiers have been buried in foreign lands like Persia, Egypt and France. They are scattered like flowers which have been accidentally mown down by misfortune.

1. How do the soldiers lie in the alien land?

Ans: The soldiers are buried in alien land where they seem to be gathered like pearls. They are scattered on the shores and sand like shells and they lie with pale brows and brave , broken hands as their bodies have been mutilated.

1. Bring out the contrasting emotions of the narrator in the third stanza?

Ans: She is sad as she has lost many of her sons in war and is keeping a watch for those alive to return. On the other hand she is proud of her sons who have laid their lives and hopes for their victory in war.

1. What will happen once the war is over?

Ans: Once the war is over is over, the terror and tumult of hate will stop and peace will be restored.. The life of the people will be reshaped and brought back to normalcy.

1. Why does the poet compare the dead soldiers to pearls?

Ans: Just like pearls are strewn together in a thread , the soldiers were also throuwn in together in their alien graves.

1. What does the poet mean by ‘blood-brown’ meadows? Where are such meadows?

Ans:The blood of the soldiers who have died in the war has mixed with the soil of the meadows. Therefore the meadows have changed from green to a reddish brown colour.

1. What are the things that people cannot measure according to the narrator?

Ans: The people cannot measure the grief of Mother India, who has lost so many of her sons in war. They also cannot measure the pain that she suffers as she is expecting and waiting for her sons to return alive from the war zone.

1. Which vision does the narrator refer to? What does the vision comprise of?

Ans: The narrator refers to the glorious vision when the war would end. The blood stained flags of the enemy would be torn off. The terror and tumult of hatred would end restoring peace and the life of the people will return to normalcy.

1. What appeal does the narrator make at the end of the poem?

Ans: The narrator says that the war will end and life will be reshaped. At that time the world will thank those soldiers who fearlessly fought in the battle. The narrator appeals to the people to remember the blood of her martyred sons.

1. What fitting memorial will be acceptable for the fallen soldiers?

Ans: After the war ends , everyone will talk about the sacrifice of the fearless soldiers. At such a time when they remember the dead soldiers, it will be a fitting memorial for them.