Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: The Last Lesson of The Afternoon

1. **Who is the narrator? Whose weariness will end? When?**

**Ans:** The narrator is the teacher. The students’ weariness will end when the bell will ring.

1. **What has happened since a long time?**

**Ans:** Since a very long time, the students are tugged with a leash and they are straining to go apart.

1. **What can the narrator not start? Which metaphor is used for the students?**

**Ans:** The narrator cannot start again on a quarry of knowledge they hate to hunt. He says that he cannot urge them or haul them anymore.

1. **What can the narrator not do any longer?**

**Ans:** The narrator can no longer endure the brunt of the books that lie out on the desks.

1. **How many books are there? How is the work done by the students described?**

**Ans:** There are a full threescore books i.e. 60 books. The work done by the students are of several insults of blotted pages and there is a lot of scrawl of slovenly work. This kind of shoddy work is offered by the students to their teacher.

1. **What makes the narrator sick? Why?**

**Ans:**  The narrator is sick of teaching his students. He feels that there is nothing good in teaching them. He can see that it is of use to the students or to him.

1. **What does the narrator plan to do with his ‘last dear fuel of life’**

**Ans:** The narrator wonders if he should take his last dear fuel of life to heap on his soul and kindle his will to a flame that should consume their dross of indifference and take the toll of their insults in punishment. (The narrator wonders if he should gather his efforts and with passion ignite his determination to teach and end their lack of interest, and in return suffer from the payment of insults as a punishment.)

1. **What does the narrator ultimately decide?**

**Ans:** The narrator ultimately decides that he will not take efforts to teach the students. He won’t waste his soul or passion and his strength the students.

1. **Does the narrator care what the students miss?**

**Ans:** The narrator doesn’t care what the students miss. He further points out that there is no point in his teaching or their learning as everything goes down in the same abyss.

1. **What doesn’t matter to the narrator? What is expected from him?**

**Ans:** It doesn’t matter to the narrator if the students can write a description of a dog or they can’t. The narrator says that it is expected of him to care with all his energy.

1. **What is finally decided by the narrator, in the last stanza?**

**Ans:** The narrator says that he doesn’t care and he won’t care just how the students don’t and won’t care. He finally decides that he would keep his strength for himself and the students can keep theirs too as there is no point in beating their heads against the wall. So he would rather sit and wait for the bell.