Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAMINATION (PPS)**

**Std VIII Duration: 2 hrs Marks 80 marks**

Note:-Attempt **ANY** five questions

**Question 1.**

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

***‘Once again Clover and Benjamin warned him to take care of his health.’***

1. **In what condition did the animals find Boxer? [3]**
2. **Why did the animals feel uneasy when Squealer told them that Boxer would be sent to a hospital at Willingdon for treatment? [3]**
3. **How long did Boxer expect to live? How did he plan to spend his remaining days? [3]**
4. **What was written on the van that took Boxer away? What did he do when he heard the screams of his fellow friends? [3]**
5. **What was the new name given to Animal Farm by Napoleon? What strange transformation did the animals notice on the face of the pigs? What is the significance of this transformation? [4]**

**1.** There lay Boxer, between the shafts of the cart, his neck stretched out, unable even to raise his head. His eyes were glazed, his sides matted with sweat. A thin stream of blood had trickled out of his mouth.

2. Except for Mollie and Snowball, no other animal had ever left the farm, and they did not like to think of their sick comrade in the hands of human beings.

3. If he made a good recovery, he might expect to live another three years, and he looked forward to the peaceful days that he would spend in the corner of the big pasture. It would be the first time that he had had leisure to study and improve his mind. He intended, he said, to devote the rest of his life to learning the remaining twenty-two letters of the alphabet.

4. `Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler, Willingdon. Dealer in Hides and Bone-Meal. Kennels Supplied.' Was written on the van that took Boxer away. When he heard the screams of his friends, He was trying to kick his way out.

5. ‘Manor Farm’. The faces changed from pig to man and man to pig and from pig to man again. The changes signify that the greed, injustice, want for power, inequality and cruelty had seeped into the animals and that made them no different from the men.

**Question 2.**

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

***‘Well, it is the weakness then, said the doctor.’***

1. **Why was the doctor called? How is the doctor described? Why? [3]**
2. **What was Sue’s response when the doctor asked her if there was anything on Johnsy’s mind? How did the doctor react to her response? [3]**
3. **How was ‘a colony’ formed? [3]**
4. **Who is personified in the lesson? How? [3]**
5. **What was the doctor’s diagnosis before and after Johnsy getting inspired by the last leaf? [4]**

1. The doctor was called to treat Johnsy as she was suffering from pneumonia. The doctor is described as ‘busy’ because there were many people affected by pneumonia and attending all of them had kept him busy.

2. Sue replied that Johnsy wished to paint the Bay of Naples someday. Doctor was surprised to know about such a trivial thing and asked if that was all.

3. The art people went there prowling, hunting for north windows and eighteenth century houses and low rents. Additionally, the artists imported some pewter mugs and one or two chafing dishes from the Sixth Avenue. Thus a colony was formed at Greenwich Village.

4. Pneumonia is personified as a cold unseen stranger who stalked about the colony touching one person or the other with his icy fingers. Pneumonia is also personified as a non-chivalric gentleman.

5. The doctor’s diagnosis before getting inspired by the last leaf was that she had one chance in ten. That chance too was if she had the willingness to live. And after the inspiration, the doctor said that she had even chances with good nursing, she would win.

**Question 3.**

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

***‘I would venture on a sweet hunt when her loud snores told me…’***

1. **Who is ‘I’ here? Whom does the word ‘her’ refer to? Explain ‘sweet hunt’ [3]**
2. **What was the narrator and his siblings given when they visited Aachchi? [3]**
3. **Write a short note on the dog. [3]**
4. **What happened when the narrator went to Aachchi’s bedroom? [3]**
5. **Mention the instances due to which the narrator felt that Aachchi was partial. [4]**

**1.** I, here, is the narrator. Her refers to Aacchi, the narrator’s grandmother. ‘Sweet hunt’ means the cache of sweets that she kept hidden in her kitchen.

2. When the narrator and his siblings visited Aacchi she would give sweets, ginger biscuits and hot ginger tea.

3. The dog was named Rocky. He was Aachchi’s constant companion and he would bark at anybody who tried to pet him. He only allowed Aacchi to pet his head. Aachchi always kept dog-biscuits in a special container for Rocky. Whenever he did a trick, Aachchi would give him a biscuit and Rocky would wag his tail.

4. When the narrator went to Aachchi’s bedroom, on the wall above the bed was a framed photograph of Aachchi taken during her youth. The woman in the sepia picture with her slim figure and dark hair did not look like Aachchi. The narrator saw that Aacchi was smiling in the picture which was unlike her in her old days. He noticed his mom, i.e. Amma, smiling and how she looked identical to the younger version of his grandmother.

5. Whenever the narrator played hide and seek, Aachchi would always give away his most secret hiding place. He always thought she was spying on him and that she didn’t like him.

**Question 4.**

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

***‘I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul…’***

1. **What does the word ‘whatever’ refer to? Why is the soul called ‘unconquerable’? [3]**
2. **Explain the comparison given in the first line of the first stanza. How is the pit described? [3]**
3. **How did the poet react in the fell clutch of circumstance? What does it show about him? [3]**
4. **Identify the phrases that the poet uses to describe challenges? [3]**
5. **Is the title of the poem justified? Explain. [4]**

1. The word ‘whatever’ refers to the condition that God has put him into. Irrespective of the circumstances, hardships and obstacles God has not been able to conquer his spirit or the soul. He has not given up and will not succumb to the adversities. That is why his soul is described as unconquerable.

2. In the first line of the stanza, the night which is black is compared to the pit. It is described to be dark and from one pole to the other.

3. He did not wince nor cry aloud. His head is bloody but unbowed. It shows bludgeonings of chance. It shows he is invincible.

4. ‘Out of the night that covers me’, ‘In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud’, ‘beyond this place of wrath and tears….’, ‘How charged with punishments the scroll’

5. Yes, the title of the poem is justified because the poet-narrator shows immense courage. He displays fortitude in the face of adversity and believes that no matter what he is the master of his fate and captain of his soul.

**Question 5.**

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

***‘For you! For you, I am trilling these songs…’***

1. **Who is ‘you’ here? Which songs is the poet talking about? [3]**
2. **Give the three adjectives given for ‘the love of comrades’. Explain them. [3]**
3. **What does he compare companionship to in the first line? Why does he makes this comparison? [3]**
4. **What changes will the poet introduce for the American ‘land’? [3]**
5. **Describe the poet’s dream in your own words. [4]**

1. You here is democracy. The songs about indissoluble continent, most splendid race, divine magnetic lands, companionship in America, inseparable cities

2. life-long- everlasting love, manly-mature, high-towering- ever-growing, progressing

3. he compares companionship to the thickness of the trees. He makes this comparison as the trees symbolise not only prosperity but also beauty that he would get in America. Also, the trees symbolise deep roots and he wants the companionship in America to be deeply rooted among the citizens.

4. He wants to make the continent indissoluble, plant trees along the rivers of America along the great lakes and all over the priaries, make cities inseparable.

5. The poet’s dream is to make the continent never-ending. He wants the sun to shine on the most splendid race that is the Americans. He wants to make the lands magnetic and divine. He wants to plant brotherhood among people, wants to make cities inseparable and united.

**Question 6.**

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

***‘Which of you shall we say doth love us most?’***

1. **Whom do the words ‘you’ and ‘we’ refer to? [3]**
2. **What did Goneril say? [3]**
3. **What was King Lear’s response to Cordelia’s expression? [3]**
4. **What was Kent’s closing dialogue? [3]**
5. **Explain ‘thought to set my rest on her kind nursery’ and who is referred to as a ‘dragon’ [4]**

1. The words ‘you’ refer to all three daughters; Goneril, Regan and Cordelia. We here refers to the King Lear himself.

2. Goneril said that she loves her father as much as a child ever loved, or father ever found his child’s love. She further says that she loves him as much as the breath that can be made and speech unable. Beyond all that manner, she loves her.

3. When asked what she has to say, Cordelia says nothing. Hence, King Lear told Cordelia that she will receive nothing as her answer is nothing.

4. Kent bid a farewell to the king and said that since he behaves like that, freedom is elsewhere and banishment is in the kingdom. He tells Cordelia that Gods will shelter her as she has justly thought and rightly spoken. To Goneril and Regan, he tells to act according to what they have said.

5. Here the King says that he had thought that he would spend his old age in the nurture and care of his most favourite daughter that is Cordelia. The king calls himself as a dragon as he is vexed at the answer given by Cordelia regarding her love for him.