Brain International School
Vikas Puri, New Delhi

ASSIGNMENT NO.5

SUBJECT: ENGLISH **CLASS-VIII** **NOVEMBER 2026**

CH-11: KALI AND THE RAT SNAKE

Theme:

The story celebrates courage, self-belief, and the dignity of traditional knowledge. It conveys that true ability and character matter more than social status or prejudice. Through Kali's bravery and skill, the author emphasizes that every individual deserves respect and that one's unique background can become a source of strength rather than embarrassment.

Q. Answer the following questions.

a) How does Kali prove that courage is more important than physical strength?
b) How does the story promote equality and challenge the stereotypes in society?
c) Why did Kali sit far away from others to finish his tiffin?
d) What lesson does the classroom incident teach the students?
e) Why was Kali not scared of the rat snake while the other children were?

f) *'Ten children ran off in ten different directions to find bags. The others looked at Kali with admiration.'*
   i) What does this moment mean for Kali's place in the group?
   ii) What does this tell you about how the other children view Kali after the snake incident?

POEM- 12 : THE HUMAN SEASONS

***Theme*:**

The theme of the poem 'The Human Seasons' by John Keats is the natural cycle of human life compared to the four seasons. Each season symbolizes a stage in a person's life — spring as youth, summer as adulthood, autumn as maturity, and winter as old age. The poem reflects how human emotions and experiences evolve with time, embracing change as a natural part of life.

Poetic Devices:

1. Metaphor: Comparison of human life stages to seasons.
Example: 'Four Seasons fill the measure of the year; / Four Seasons are there in the mind of Man'
2.Imagery: Vivid descriptions of nature and human emotions.
Example: 'He has his lusty spring, when fancy clear / Takes in all beauty with an easy span'
3. Personification: Attributing human qualities to seasons.

Example: ‘Four Seasons’ are described in relation to human experiences and emotions.
4. Symbolism: Seasons symbolize different stages of human life (youth, adulthood, old age).

Q. Answer the following questions.
a. What does Keats mean by the ‘four seasons in the mind of man’? Discuss with reference to the poem.
b. Explain the significance of ‘Summer’ in the poem and what it reveals about human maturity.
c. Why does Keats say ‘Or else he would forego his mortal nature’ in reference to Winter?
d. How does the poem reflect John Keats’s philosophy of life and nature?
e. What does the image of ‘honied cud’ symbolize about human experience?

CH-13: THE THREE QUESTIONS

Theme:
The chapter emphasises living in the present, valuing relationships, and selfless service. It teaches that the most important time is *now*, the most important person is the one you are with, and the most important action is helping others. The story highlights wisdom through practical kindness rather than abstract answers, showing that true fulfilment comes from compassion and selfless deeds, shaping a meaningful and purposeful life.

Q. Answer the following questions.
1. Why do you think the hermit did not answer the king’s questions directly?
2. How did the king’s actions towards the wounded man change the course of the events?
3. What does the story suggest about the importance of helping others in difficult situations?
4. How does the king’s experience with the hermit shape his understanding of wisdom?
5. If you were in the king’s place, how would you interpret the answers given by the hermit?