



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic :The Tale of Melon City

Worksheet .No :

Resource Person: Vincent Mathew

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class & Division : _____

Roll Number : ____

S.No.	Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each.	Marks
1.	What did the king order to be built? What happened when it was built? The king ordered to build an arch across the major thoroughfare of the city as a symbol of triumph- and to edify the spectators. The workmen built it but it was too low. When the king rode under it, his crown hit against it and fell down.	3
2.	What are the principles of 'Laissez-faire'? 'Laissez-faire is a French term meaning 'leave alone'. It also means the doctrine of avoiding government interference in business. So these principles worked well in the melon city 'when a melon' was made the king and that did not interfere the lives of his subjects. They were happy till the king let them live in peace and liberty.	3
3.	What message does the poem 'The Tale of Melon City convey'? Vikram Seth gives a message that how by thoughtless action people choose irresponsible government and the whole kingdom would turn into a farce. People need to be wise and careful in choosing their governments, which in turn should be responsible and transparent to the people.	3
	Answer the following question in 100-120 words.	6
1.	Elaborate on the instances in the poem which highlight humour and irony.	
	The poem is full of humour and irony from the beginning to the end. There is a king who has a triumphal arch built on the major road of the city. But the same triumphal arch bangs his crown off. The king wants to punish the guilty but in the end gets himself hanged. The king is dead but the ministers make proclamations in the name of the king. All these are examples of irony. And there is humour in the description of each character. The king, the ministers, the wisest man of the city, the councilor and melon idiot are fools. In fact it is a kingdom of fools. Nothing could be more humorous than a melon being crowned and carried to the throne reverently.	
2.	What impression do you gather of a state where the king was just and placid? It was a kingdom of fools. No one in the state had any sense. The king wanted to hang someone because his crown had hit against the arch and fallen down. The wanted to consult a wise man. The ministers brought a man to the king. He said that the real culprit was the arch and must be hanged. The king allows himself to be hanged because no other man is tall enough to fit the noose. The king is dead but the ministers make declarations in the name of the king. An idiot says that a melon should be the ruler of the state. The ministers crown a melon and set it down on the throne. Thus we see that it was truly a kingdom of all fools.	6