Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: To Kill a Mockingbird : Chapter 21 (Notes)**

1. **Who does ‘she’ refer to in the first line? What was she doing? What did she have in her hand?**

Ans: In the first line ‘she’ refers to Calpurnia. She was trying to get Judge Taylor’s attention. She had an envelope in her hand.

1. **Whom did the judge see? What did the person tell the judge?**

Ans: The judge saw Calpurnia. She asked if she could pass the note which was in her hand to Mr Finch (Atticus). She further assured him that it had nothing to do with the trial.

1. **What did the note given by Calpurnia to Atticus contain?**

Ans: The note given by Calpurnia to Atticus was from his sister saying that his children were missing and hadn’t turned up since noon.

1. **Where were the children? Who told Atticus about where they were?**

Ans: The children referred to were the narrator, Scout , her brother, Jem and their friend, Dill.

1. **Explain ‘coloured balcony’.**

Ans: The place called the 'coloured balcony' refers to the black people which have been separated from the white in the trial. This is because the white people did not want to mingle with the black as a result of the inhuman discrimination based on colour. The white people got the downstairs area in the courtroom so they could be closer to the action and the black people got the balcony because it was the second best.

1. **What did Atticus tell the children to do? What was their response?**

Ans: Atticus told the children to go home with Calpurnia and have their supper and stay home. But the children requested him to allow them to come back and let them hear the verdict.

1. **Did Atticus relent to the demand of his children? What did he say?**

Ans: Yes. Atticus relented and gave them permission to return to the court after supper. He said that they had heard the entire trial that day so they might as well hear the rest. He instructed them not to hurry with their supper and that they wouldn’t miss anything important. He also said that the case may end before they arrived.

1. **What did the narrator pray for and why did she stop?**

Ans: The narrator prayed that Reverend Skyes would save their seats while they were away for supper. She stopped praying because she remembered that people got up and left in droves when the jury was out. She also realised that that night most of the people would out buying supper unless they had brought it with them.

1. **In what state was Calpurnia while they were going home for supper? What had shocked her the most?**

Ans: Calpurnia was furious at the children while they were going home for supper. She threatened to skin all of them alive. What had shocked her the most was that Jem had taken his little sister, Scout, to such a trial which was not fitting for children to hear.

1. **What chiding did Calpurnia give Jem?**

Ans: Calpurnia was shocked that Jem , who she thought was quite mature , had taken his little sister to a trial which was not fitting for children to hear. She told him that she thought he had his head on his shoulders and that the very idea of taking Scout to the trial was appalling. She further told him that he should be perfectly ashamed of himself and did not have any sense at all.

1. **What were Scout’s feelings as she heard Calpurnia reprimanding? Why did she feel so?**

Ans: Scout was exhilarated as she heard Calpurnia reprimanding Jem. At all other times it was the other way around. Calpurnia would always scold Scout and favour Jem. She would keep praising him and find faults with Scout

1. **What did Calpurnia tell Dill?**

Ans: Calpurnia allowed Dill to have supper with Jem and Scout but was also very annoyed with him. She told him to call his aunt , Miss Rachel right away and inform her where he was as Miss Rachel had been crazily looking out for him. She further warned him that Miss Rachel might just send him back to Meridian the first thing the next morning.

1. **How did Aunt Alexandra react to the whole situation?**

Ans: Aunt Alexandra nearly fainted when Calpurnia told her where the children had been. It also hurt her when she heard that Atticus had given the children the permission to return to the court after supper. She kept silent throughout supper and just rearranged food on her plate, looking at it sadly.

1. **Why were the children surprised on returning to the court?**

Ans: On returning to the court, the children were surprised to find that they had been gone nearly an hour, and were equally surprised to dind the court-room exactly as they had left it , with minor changes. They saw that the jury box was still empty the defendant was gone; Judge Taylor had been gone but he reappeared as they were about to sit.

1. **What were Reverend Sykes’ views about Judge Taylor?**

Ans: Reverend Sykes believed that the judge was fair-minded though it appeared he was on the side of the blacks.

1. **What was Jem’s conviction about the case? Did Reverend Sykes feel the same?**

Ans: Jem was convinced that Atticus would win the case and Tom Robinson would be acquitted. But Reverend Sykes was not of the same opinion. He said that he had never seen any jury decide in favour of a coloured man over a white one.

1. **What did Scout see Atticus doing?**

Ans : When Scout looked down, he saw Atticus strolling around with his hands in his pockets. Atticus then made a tour of the windows and then walked by the railing over to the jury box. He looked in it inspected Judge Taylor on his seat and then went back to where he started. When Scout waved to him, he acknowledged her salute with a nod and resumed his tour.

1. **What was Mr Gilmer doing?**

Ans: Mr Gilmer was standing at the windows talking to Mr Underwood.

1. **According to Scout, who were the only ones behaving normally?**

Ans: According to Scout, the officers of the court, the ones present- Atticus, Mr Gilmer and Judge Taylor were the only ones whose behaviour seemed normal

1. **Describe the court-room as the narrator saw it?**

Ans: The court-room was completely packed and yet still. Sometimes a baby would cry out fretfully and a child would scurry out but the grown-ups sat as if they were in church. In the balcony the Negroes sat and stood with biblical patience.

1. **What was Scout’s state as the clock struck eleven?**

Ans: As the clock struck eleven, Scout , who had been fighting sleep, allowed herself a short nap against Reverend Sykes’ comfortable arm and shoulder.

1. **What did Mr Tate do?**

Ans: Mr Tate left the room and returned with Tom Robinson. He steered Tom to his place beside Atticus and stood there.

1. **What happened after Tom Robinson was brought in?**

Ans: After Tom Robinson was brought in, the jury returned and Judge Taylor said something.

1. **What did Scout notice about the jury in the courtroom? What did that convey? Why?**

Ans: Not a single member of the jury looked at Tom Robinson. This clearly conveyed the fact that Tom had been convicted because a jury never looks at a defendant it has convinced.

1. **What was the verdict? How did Jem react on hearing the verdict?**

Ans: The verdict was that Tom Robinson was guilty. On hearing the verdict, Jem’s hands were white from gripping the balcony rail and his shoulders jerked as if each time the word ‘guilty’ was uttered by the judge , the word was separated by a stab.

1. **How did Atticus react on hearing the verdict?**

Ans: On hearing the verdict, Atticus pushed his papers from the table into his brief-case and snapped it shut. Then he went to the court reporter and said something, nodded to Mr Gilmer and then went to Tom Robinson. Atticus put his hand on Tom’s shoulder as he whispered something to him. After that Atticus took his coat off the back of his chair and pulled it over his shoulder and left the court-room.

1. **What did Reverend Sykes do as Atticus was leaving the court room?**

Ans: As Atticus was leaving the room, Reverend Sykes tried to wake Scout of her sleepiness and told her to stand up as her father was passing by. He does so out of respect for her father. Not only Reverend Sykes but also the rest of the black community sitting in the ‘coloured balcony’ stand up to salute and honour the valiant effort of Atticus in defending Tom Robinson.