Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Chapter 1 B ( page 8 - 16) Answer Key

1. **What does ‘routine contentment’ refer to?**

Ans: ‘Routine contentment ‘ refers to improving their tree house that rested between giant twin chinaberry trees in the backyard , fussing , running through their list of dramas based on the works of Oliver Optic, Victor Appleton and Edgar Rice Burroughs.

1. **Why does the narrator say that they were lucky to have Dill? What does she call him? What is the significance of that term?**

Ans: The narrator says that they were lucky to have Dill because he played the character parts formerly thrust upon her – like the ape in ‘Tarzan’, Mr Crabtree in ‘The Rover Boys’, Mr Damon in ‘Tom Swift’. She calls him a ‘pocket Merlin’. Merlin was a wizard in ‘The legends of King Arthur’. She calls him so because he seemed to have many eccentric plans, strange longings and quaint fancies.

1. **When did Dill give the narrator and her brother Jem the idea of making Boo Radley come out?**

Ans: By the end of August their collection of plays and dances had exhausted and they were bored from the countless reproductions of the same. It was then that Dill gave them the idea of making Boo Radley come out.

1. **Bring out instances to show that the Radley Place fascinated Dill.**

Ans: Inspite of warnings from the narrator and her brother, Dill was attracted to the Radley Place as the moon draws water. But he would only go upto the light-pole on the corner , a safe distance from the Radley gate. He would stand there , his arm around the fat pole, staring and wondering.

1. **Describe the Radley Place in brief.**

Ans: The Radley Place jutted into a sharp curve beyond the narrator’s house. The house was low , was once white with a deep front porch and green shutters , but had long ago darkened to the colour of the slate-grey yard around it. Rain- rotten shingles drooped over the eaves of the verangda; oak trees kept the sun away. The remains of a picket carelessly guarded the front yard which was never swept – where johnson grass and rabbit-tobacco grew in abundance.

1. **What did people say about Boo Radley ?**

Ans: People called him a malevolent (evil ) phantom. They said he went out at night when the moon was high and peeped in windows. If breathed on plants , they would freeze. Any stealthy crimes committed were blamed on him.

1. **How did the Radleys behave in Maycomb?**

Ans: Though the Radleys were welcome anywhere , they kept to themselves. They did not go to church which was Maycomb’s main recreation. Mrs Radley seldom crossed the street for a mid-morning coffee break with her neighbours and certainly never joined a missionary circle. Mr Radley went out for about half an hour probably to get groceries. The shutters and doors of the Radley house were closed on Sundays.

1. **Why was the younger Radley boy notorious in his teens?**

Ans: When Arthur, the younger Radley boy was in his teens , he was friendly with boys from an enormous tribe, the Cunnighams and formed something like a gang. They hang around the barber-shop , went to Abbotsville on Sundays and went to the picture show , attended dances at the country’s riverside gambling hall and had whisky Thus the younger Radley ( known as Boo Radley) became notorious.

1. **Why were Arthur and his gang of friends brought before the probate judge?**

Ans: One night when the boys were drunk , they drove around in a flivver and resisted arrest by Maycomb’s ancient beadle, Mr Conner and locked him in the court-house outhouse. They were thus brought before the probate judge.

1. **What did the probate judge decide? What did Mr Radley do ?**

Ans: The judge decided to send the boys to the state industrial schools, where such boys were usually sent not as a punishment but to provided them with food and decent shelter. It was no prison and no disgrace but Mr Radley thought it was a shame .He did not want his son to be sent there so he assured the judge that he would see to it that Arthur gave no further trouble.

1. **What happened to after that incident?**

Ans: After the incident , the doors of the Radley house wer closed on weekdays as well as Sundays, and Arthur was never seen again for fifteen years.

1. **When was Boo Radley heard of after a long time? What had happened? Who gave Jem the information?**

Ans: It was Stephanie Crawford , a neighbourhood scold, who gave Jem the information about something that Boo had done. According to her, Boo had been sitting in the living-room cutting some items from the ‘Maycomb Tribune’ to paste in his scrapbook. His father entered the room. As Mr Radley passed by, Boo drove the scissors into his parent’s leg, pulled them out , wiped them on his pants, and resumed his activities.

1. **What did Mrs Radley do at the time of the incident? What did the sheriff see? How old was Boo Radley then?**

Ans: Mrs Radley ran screaming into the street that Arthur was killing them all. When the sheriff arrived at their place, he found Boo still sitting in the living room, cutting up the Tribune. He was thirty-three years old then.

1. **Why was Boo locked in the court- house basement?**

Ans: Mr Radley was against sending any of his family members to an asylum. According to him, Boo wasn’t crazy, he was just high- strung at times. Mr Radley insisted that Boo not be charged with anything ; he was not a criminal. Moreover , the sheriff did not have the heart to put him in jail alongside Negroes, so Boo was locked in the court-house basement.

1. **Write at least four points to describe Mr Radley.**

Ans: Mr Radley was a thin leathery man with colourless eyes which did not reflect light. His cheekbones were sharp and his mouth wide with a thin upper lip and a full lower lip. According to Stephanie Crawford, Mr Radley was so upright that his posture was ramrod straight.

1. **What arrangements were made when Mr Radley was dying?**

Ans: There were a lot of changes in the area around the Radley house. Wooden sawhorses blocked the road at each end of the property, straw was put down on the sidewalk, traffic was diverted to the back street. Even the doctor , Dr Reynold parked his car in front of the narrator’s house and walked to the Radley house.

1. **What was Calpurnia’s reaction on Radley’s death?**

Ans: Calpurnia spat meditatively into the yard and said that he was the meanest man God ever sent on this earth.

1. **What description did Jem give of Boo Radley?**

Ans: According to Jem’s description, Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch, that’s why his hands were bood-stained. There was a long jagged scar that ran across his face and had yellow rotten teeth, his eyes popped and he drooled most of the time.

1. **What bet did Dill have with Jem?**

Ans: Dill dared Jem that to go farther than the Radley gate. He bet him ‘The Grey Ghost’ against two Tom Swifts.

1. **Why and how did Jem touch the door of the Radleys?**

Ans: According to Scout, Jem did not like to turn down a dare, but he was afraid to approach the Radley home. However, after Dill modified the challenge to just touching the house instead of trying to get Boo to come outside, Jem accepted. So, he touched the Radley house **in order to not be accused of lacking courage and because doing so is not as frightening as the first proposal.**