Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Scarlet Pimpernel (Chapter 16)

1. What was Marguerite’s state in the beginning of the chapter ‘Trapped’?

Marguerite was very dejected and had lost all hopes of saving her husband. Her feet were sore, her knees buckling under her from sheer fatigue. She had not rested for three days and now she had been walking along the the hilly rough path for nearly two hours. Yet, she plodded on to be with her husband. She must be walking almost in a trance when her ears told vaguely that the cart had stopped.

2. What instructions were given by Chauvelin to Desgas and the rest?

Chauvelin instructed Desgas and the rest to check if the refugees were still holed up in the hut. He told them before they part, they should remain silent. After they reach the hut, Desgas was instructed to peep inside to see if the Englishman was there inside. If he is found inside, he was told to whistle like a birdcall. That would be a signal for their friends to surround the hut. Then next they were told to rush into the hut, seize all of them before they have the time to draw their firearms. If any of them struggle, shoot at their legs, but not to kill the tall man on any account were the instructions given to Desgas and the rest.

3. What did Desgas’ men do to the cart driver? Why?

Desgas’ men asked the cart driver to wait there itself with the horse and the cart. He was told to not move till they returned. He was also asked not to make any sound.

4. Substantiate Moon’s role in the chapter. Mention how it helped Marguerite in ‘On the Track’.

The Moon really played a significant role the chapter. As the moon had been hidden, Marguerite could follow Chauvelin and his men. Like a ghost, she flitted noiselessly behind the hedge. But as the moon emerged with its full glory, it flooded the quiet landscape with a rush of unearthly light and Marguerite was visible as her silhouette was seen clearly in the silvery background of the sea.

5. What did Marguerite feel when she saw Day Dream? Why?

When Marguerite saw Day Dream, her eyes filled with tears for it waited patiently to take Percy back home.

6. Who attacked her? What did he do?

Chauvelin attacked her. A hand dragged at her skirt and she was pulled down on her knees while someone wound something round her mouth to prevent her from screaming. Then, after awhile, she was lifted off her feet and a pair of strong arms carried her forward.

7. Which ‘either-or’ choice did Chauvelin offer once again?

Chauvelin had once again offered either-or choice to Marguerite. This choice was far more horrible than the one he had suggested to her at the ball. She was told to make a choice between her husband and her brother. If she screams, she will alert her husband but will put her brother’s life in danger. And if she chooses to be quiet, Armand would be safe but Percy would not know what lay in future for him.