Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Scarlet Pimpernel (Chapter 14)

1. Brogard came in with a clean tablecloth and busied himself with laying the table for another guest. When the table was set, Brogard gave the simmering soup a stir, threw a fresh log into the fire and shuffled out of the room.

2. No, Marguerite’s expectation was not fulfilled. She expected her husband to come as there laid a clean table cloth, the chair, the glass, the plate and spoon.

3. Marguerite came to know that it was someone else from the footsteps. The person who arrived had long and firm steps. It was Chauvelin dressed in a black cassock. He wore a broad-brimmed hat, had bony hands and walked with a slight stoop.

4. Desgas was told to go and meet Captain Jutley and inform him to send more soldiers to patrol the beaches. The men should be looking out for any stranger who may be walking, riding or driving along the road or the beach. They should watch out for someone who is tall but he might stoop too.

5. If those men sighted any stranger, two men are to keep him in view and the third man is to ride straight back to Pere Blanchard’s hut to report to Chauvelin.

6. Marguerite was worried about Percy’s arrival with other fugitives and their capture by Chauvelin leading them to their death at the guillotine.

7. Scarlet Pimpernel; an Englishman helping many innocent French aristocrats- Chauvelin; a representative of French Republic chasing Scarlet Pimpernel- simply carrying out orders given to him by his authorities. Scarlet Pimpernel has a league of 19 people willing to lay their lives for him- he escapes somehow probably because he knows that whatever he is doing he is right- Chauvelin fails everytime to catch Scarlet Pimpernel- Chauvelin- risks his friend’s life- Marguerite- blackmails her- manipulates situation to extract information- Scarlet Pimpernel on the other hand- is willing to sacrifice his life for the people who have shown complete faith in him.

8. The title ‘Death Trap’ is relevant as the death trap is laid by Chauvelin for Scarlet Pimpernel. Chauvelin was on the run to catch Scarlet Pimpernel since a very long time. Chauvelin in order to catch Scarlet Pimpernel had instructed his men to increase the patrolling. Chauvelin decided to wait alone in the inn. Suddenly a sound caught his ear. It was the cheerful sound of a fresh voice singing loudly. Chauvelin who was disguised as a priest was shocked to notice Scarlet Pimpernel standing alive in front of him. Chauvelin who was in the very act of swallowing a spoonful of soup choked on it. Sir Percy had guessed it right that Chauvelin who had post soldiers elsewhere but he did not think of guarding Le Chat Gris. And no doubt, Sir Percy had thought of a crafty plan by which he could make the best use of the situation. After a brief conversation, Chauvelin realised that Desgas would soon come to the inn in another minute or two and then he would have Captain Jutley’s men to tie up the Englishman. Till then, Scarlet had his back turned to Chauvelin and while he was still talking in his pointless way, he had taken out his snuffbox from his pocket and had quickly filled it with powdered pepper from the pepper-cellar. Then he turned again to Chauvelin and asked Chauvelin if he wished to sniff some. With one ear fixed on those fast- approaching footsteps and one eye fixed on the door where Desgas and his men would be approaching. Chauvelin put out his hand and took a pinch of snuff to his nose. He unknowingly took a whole pinch of it and sniffed it deeply up his nostril. Sneeze after sneeze after sneeze seemed to choke him. He seemed blind, deaf and dumb for the moment, during which Pimpernel without any hurry took up his hat, took some money out of his pocket, left it on the table for Brogard and then calmly walked out of the inn.