Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Notes : To Kill a Mockingbird- Chapter 27

1. What was different about the Halloween this year?

Ans: This year the Halloween would be different as the high-school auditorium would be open , there would be a pageant for the grown-ups , apple –bobbing, taffy-pulling, pinning the tail on the donkey for the children. There would also be a prize of twenty-five cents for the best Halloween costume, created by the wearer.

1. Why did Jem and Scout groan?

Ans: Jem considered himself too old for Halloween, he said he wouldn’t even go anywhere near the high school during Halloween so he groaned on hearing about the Halloween. Scout wanted to go but since Jem wasn’t going so she too groaned.

1. What had Mrs Grace Merriweather planned? ( Describe in detail the flow of the event )

Ans: Mrs Merriweather had planned and composed an original pageant titled ‘Maycomb County: Ad Astra Per Aspera’. The children had to dress up to represent the county’s agricultural products. Scout was to dress up as a ham, Cecil Jacobs would be dressed up to look like a cow, Agnes Boone as a butter-bean, another child would be a peanut etc. The children who were to play the character of an agricultural product were supposed to enter from the stage left as Mrs Merriweather identified them. For example when she would call out ‘ pork’, it was a cue ( signal ) for Scout to enter. Then the assembled company would sing and finally Mrs Merriweather would mount the stage with the state flag.

1. By whom and how was Scout’s costume designed ?

Ans: Scout’s costume was designed by Mrs Crenshaw , the local seamstress, had as much imagination as Mrs Merriweather. She took some chicken wire and bent it into the shape of a cured ham. She covered it with brown cloth , and painted it to resemble the original. Scout would have to duck under and someone would pull the contraption down over my head. The costume came almost to Scout’s knees. There were two peepholes in the costume.

1. What were the discomforts of Scout’s costume?

Ans: There were several discomforts of Scout’s costume. It was hot and the costume was a close fit and Scout’s hands were stuck in. If her nose itched , she couldn’t scratch it and once inside Scout couldn’t get out of it alone.

1. Why was Scout disappointed?

Ans: As Halloween came , Scout assumed that the whole family would be present to watch her perform but it was not so. Atticus said he was too tired to sit through the pageant and Aunt Alexandra said she had to sleep early as she had been decorating the stage all afternoon and was exhausted.

1. What suggestion did Aunt Alexandra give? What happened as a result?

Ans: Aunt Alexandra suggested that since the family couldn’t attend the pageant, Scout should give the family a preview in the living- room. So Jem squeezed Scout into her costume , stood at the living-room door called out ‘Po-ork’ exactly as Mrs Merriweather would have done, and Scout marched in.

1. How many times did Scout present her part at home? What was the reaction of the audience?

Ans: Scout presented her part twice at home. Once in the living-room for her father and aunt and a second time for Calpurnia in the kitchen. Atticus and Aunt Alexandra were delighted and Calpurnia said she was wonderful.

1. Finally who agreed to take Scout for the pageant? What does the narrator say about the walk of the siblings that evening?

Ans: Finally Jem agreed to take Scout for the pageant. The narrator , Scout said that their journey that night was the longest one together.