Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Chapter 1 ( page 1 – 8) Answer Key

1. Who is the narrator? What is her brother’s name?

Ans: The narrator is Jean Louise Finch also called Scout and her brother’s name is Jem Finch.

1. What injury did Jem suffer? Describe the effect of the injury.

Ans: Jim broke his arm at the elbow. His left arm was somewhat shorter than his right. When he stood or walked, the back of his hand was at right- angles to his body, his thumb parallel to his thigh.

1. What were the two different opinions that the narrator and her brother had with respect to Jem’s injury?

Ans: The narrator believed that the Ewells were the cause of the injury while Jem believed it started long before that, the summer Dill had come to them.

1. What was the reason for the narrator’s ancestor Simon Finch settling in Alabama?

Ans: The narrator’s ancestor faced religious persecution. He was a Methodist who suffered at the hands of the liberal brethren. Thus Simon fled from England and settled at the banks of the Alabama River.

1. What did Simon do for a living? Why did he not display his riches?

Ans: Simon was a fur- trapper and an apothecary and had made his wealth by practising medicine. He did not display his riches because he believed that doing so would be against the glory of God.

1. Give a brief description about how Simon settled in Alabama.

Ans: Simon left Cornwall and worked his way across the Atlantic to Philadelphia, then to Jamaica, then to Mobile and up the Saint Stephens. He made a lot of wealth practicing medicine. He then bought three slaves and established a homestead on the banks of the Alabama River.

1. What was customary for the men in Simon’s family? What was the name of Simon’s homestead?

Ans: It was customary for the men in the family to remain on Simon’s homestead and make their living from cotton. The name of the homestead was ‘Finch’s Landing’.

1. By whom and how was the tradition of staying on the land broken?

Ans: The tradition of living on the homestead was broken well into the twentieth century, when the narrator’s father, Atticus Finch , went to Montgomery to read law, and his younger brother went to Boston to study medicine.

1. What is the name of the narrator’s father? Where did he settle?

Ans: The name of the narrator’s father is Atticus. He settled in Maycomb, some twenty miles east of Finch’s Landing, which was the county seat of Maycomb county.

1. Describe Atticus’ office.

Ans: Atticus’ office was in the court-house. It contained only a hat rack , a spittoon, a checker-board and an unsullied Code of Alabama.

1. Write a few lines about his first clients.

Ans: His first clients were Haverford brothers. They were the last two persons hanged in the Maycomb County jail. They had killed Maycomb’s leading blacksmith over a misunderstanding which arose from the alleged wrongful detention of a mare. They were allowed to plead guilty to second-degree murder but they did not. Further, they had committed the crime in front of three witnesses. They persisted in pleading not guilty to first- degree murder. So Atticus could not do much to save them.

1. Why did Atticus like Maycomb?

Ans: Atticus was Maycomb County born and bred; he knew his people, they knew him and because of Simon Finch’s industry, he was related by blood or marriage to nearly every family in the town.

1. Write at least four points to describe Maycomb.

Ans: Maycomb was a tired, old town. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the court-house sagged in the square. Somehow , it was very hot.

1. Who was Calpurnia? Describe her.

Ans: Calpurnia was a cook at the narrator’s house. She was a black woman , all angles and bones. She was near-sighted; she squinted ;her hand was very wide and hard.

1. How was the narrator’s relation with Calpurnia?

Ans: The narrator did not share a cordial relation with Calpurnia. She was always ordering the narrator out of the kitchen, asking her why she couldn’t behave as well as Jem when she knew he was older than her. Calpurnia would always keep calling her home when she was playing though she was not ready to go. Their battles were epic and always one-sided as the narrator’s father always took her side.

1. How old were Jem and the narrator when their mother died?

Ans: The narrator was two years old and Jem was six when their mother died.

1. Who missed the mother more? What did the person do when he/she missed her?

Ans: Jem missed the mother more. He remembered her clearly and sometimes in the middle of a game he would sigh at length and then go off and play by himself behind the car – house.

1. What were the boundaries for the two kids for playing? Why did they not break those boundaries ever?

Ans: The summertime boundaries, within calling distance of Calpurnia, were Mrs Henry Lafayette Dubose’s house two doors north of the narrator’s house and the Radley Place three doors to the south. The Radley Place was inhabited by an unknown entity and Mrs Dubose was plain hell. Thus the children never broke those boundaries.

1. Describe the first encounter of the two siblings with Dill .What was his real name?

Ans: Jem and the narrator met Dill for the first time at their neighbour Miss Rachel Haverford’s collard patch. Early one morning as they were beginning their play, they heard something next door. They went to the wire fence to see if there was a puppy. There they saw Dill sitting and looking at them. His real name was Charles Baker Harris.

1. Which question embarrassed Dill? Why? How did Jem handle the situation?

Ans: When the narrator asked Dill about his father, it embarrassed him. He was an illegitimate child and did not know about his father so he was embarrassed. Jem realised the discomfort of Dill and told the narrator to keep quiet.