Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Scarlet Pimpernel (Chapter 15)

1. How did Marguerite feel after Percy’s narrow escape?

Marguerite took some time to gather her scattered senses. When she realised what Percy had done, a strange mixture of pride, joy, and wonder filled her heart.

2. Why couldn’t Chauvelin do anything to catch Percy?

Chauvelin couldn’t do anything to catch Percy as he was completely helpless. He continued sneezing and tears streamed down his cheeks, his thin pale face puffed up in agony.

3. What instructions were given to Captain Jutley’s men if they see a tall stranger?

They should not detain him. They should shadow him until he reaches his friends at Pere Blanchard’s hut. Then, one man will turn straight back and report it to Chauvelin.

4. Describe the cart driver.

Elderly man, tattered clothes, stood humbly to a side, leaning on a thick wooden staff, his greasy broad-brimmed hat casting a shadow over his grimy face.

5. Who was Reuben?

Reuben was the man from whom Scarlet had allegedly hired a horse and a cart. Scarlet wanted it to be ready by eleven o’clock.

6. What was the outcome of the interview with the old cart driver?

The man replied that he could take Chauvelin anywhere he pleases as he knew every stone, every blade of grass in that area. Chauvelin was very pleased with the interview for he rubbed his hands together.

7. What was Marguerite’s plan after everyone left from the inn?

Marguerite planned to leave from the inn after everyone left. She wrapped her black cloak tightly round her and slipped out of the inn into the night. The night was dark enough to hide her dark figure from view, while her sharp ears could hear the sound of the cart going ahead. She hoped to follow Chauvelin by keeping well within the shadow of the ditches that lined the road. She prayed Desgas’ men would not see her.

8. Which two sounds were heard? What was the second sound about? Who were they?

The sounds of the distant sea, everything else was quiet around Marguerite. Also, Marguerite heard the sound of galloping hoofs coming towards the cart and towards her. Two men on horseback had halted beside the cart.

9. What had been seen in Pere Blanchard’s hut?

Inside Pere Blanchard’s hut, it seemed empty but then some smoke rising out of a hole in the side was visible.

10. Justify the title ‘On the Track’ with reference to Marguerite’s moves.

The title ‘On the Track’ is justified as Marguerite is putting her life is danger so that she can track down Chauvelin and alert her husband Percy. Although she was completely famished, she kept a vigil on Chauvelin’s moves and plans.