Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Notes : To Kill a Mockingbird- Chapter 30

1. What happened when Scout recognized Boo and called out to him?

Ans: When Scout addressed Boo , Atticus told her to call him Mr Arthur. Then Scout ran to where Jem was sleeping.

1. What did Atticus suggest to everyone present?

Ans: Atticus suggested that everyone should go out on the front porch as there were plenty of chairs there and it was still warm enough.

1. Where did everyone sit on the porch?

Ans: Atticus was sitting in the swing and Mr Tate was in a chair next to him. Scout sat beside Boo.

1. What did Atticus suggest to Heck? What was his response?

Ans: Atticus suggested to Heck that Jem should be taken before the county court as he believed that Jem had killed Bob. Heck was shocked to hear that Atticus believed that Jem had done so. Heck firmly believed that Jem had not stabbed Bob.

1. What did Atticus think about Heck’s conviction regarding Jem’s innocence? Ans: Atticus thought that it was because of the love and respect that Heck had for Atticus and his children that Heck wanted to protect Jem. He thought it was extremely kind of Heck to do so.
2. What conclusion did Heck draw about Ewell’s death?

Ans: Heck said that Bob Ewell had fallen on his knife and killed himself.

1. Why did he insist on revealing the truth?

Ans: Atticus didn’t want to hide anything. He had always lived an honest life and wanted his kids to grow up in the same manner. He did not want his son to start his youth with any kind of falsehood and growing up with people whispering things about the incident. He also didn’t want anyone to think he had paid bribe to hush the entire affair. If the incident was hushed up it would be a simple denial to Jem of the way Atticus had tried to raise him. Before Jem looked up to anyone , he looked upto Atticus . If Atticus would hide the truth now he would not be able to meet Jem’s eyes.

1. Who had actually killed Bob? What was Heck’s final decision regarding Bob’s death? How did he convey it to Atticus?

Ans: Heck knew very well that it was Boo( Arthur) Radley who had killed Bob Ewells only to save the lives of Jem and Scout. But he did not want to take him to court. He said that already the town had wronged an innocent young life by convicting and finally shooting Tom. He did not want one more innocent life to be sacrificed. He further said Boo had actually done this town and Atticus a great service by killing a monster like Bob and he did not want to drag him in the limelight as that would be a sin. Finally before parting he declared that he was still sheriff and according to him Bob Ewell had fallen on his knife.

1. What did Atticus say to Scout after Heck left the premises? What did Scout say she understood?

Ans: Atticus told Scout that Mr Ewell had fallen on his knife and asked if she understood why she had to make the statement. Scott said she very well understood the meaning and explained that it was like shooting a mockingbird.

1. Explain: let the dead bury the dead

Ans: This line is said by Heck Tate. Tate was an honest and sincere officer who was very close to Atticus. He knew that Bob would have killed the children had Boo not intervened to save them. Killing Bob was the only means to save the children from the beastly intentions of Bob. Atticus insisted on revealing the truth. That is when Heck Tate said that one injustice had been caused with the death of Tom and he couldn’t repeat that by handing Boo to justice. Tate convinces Atticus by saying that with the death of Bob, the wrong done to Tom by Bob had been avenged. Thus the dead (Tom) had taken revenge and buried the dead (Bob Ewell).

1. Explain: it was like shooting the mockingbird

Ans: Earlier in the story Atticus had explained to Scout and Jem that it was a sin to kill a mockingbird as it is an innocent creature who does no harm to anyone. Mockingbirds are a symbol of innocence. By this Scout meant that prosecuting Boo Radley for killing Bob would be like going after an innocent creature like a mockingbird.

To Kill a Mockingbird- Chapter 31

1. Where did Scout take Boo Radley? What did Aunt Alexandra say to him?

Ans: Scout took Boo Radley to Jem’s room. Aunt Alexandra was sitting by Jem’s bed. She asked Arthur ( Boo) to come into the room and informed him that Jem was still asleep as he had been given heavy sedative. She then went to meet Atticus leaving Boo and Scout there.

1. What did Scout do to make Boo feel at ease?

Ans: After Aunt Alexandra left Jem’s room, Boo drifted to a corner of the room, where he stood with his chin up, peering from a distance at Jem. Scout took him by the hand to Jem’s bed. She told Boo that it was alright if he could pet Jem as he was asleep.

1. What did Arthur ( Boo) tell Scout? What did she do?

Ans: Arthur asked Scout if she would take him to his house. Scout decided she would lead him through their house but she would never lead him to his house. She then slipped her hand into his arm and came down and walked in a way which made it look like Boo was escorting her. They reached the street light on the corner and both entered the front gate of Radley house. He gently released Scout’s hand and went inside and shut the door.

1. After coming back from Boo’s place, what did Scout do?

Ans: After coming back from Boo’s place, Scout went to Jem’s room where Atticus was reading a book.

1. How does Scout display compassion in Chapter 30 and Chapter 31?

Ans: In the last two chapters of the novel , it is apparent that Scout displays her maturity and a sense of compassion. Once she knew that the stranger who had saved both the children is Boo, she treats him with love and respect. When Heck Tate insists that Bob died by falling on his own knife, Scout agrees with him. She says that to allow Boo to be in the limelight it would be like ‘shooting a mockingbird’- an innocent, harmless creature. In the end Scout escorts Boo home. Instead of peppering him with all the questions that must have been floating in her mind, she maintains a comfortable silence as she knows Boo’s nature by now. She respects his need to be understood and left alone. She also does not portray that it was she who was leading him as she did not want others to disregard or disrespect him. Thus Scout displays a lot of compassion and maturity towards the end of the novel.