Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: Scarlet Pimpernel (Chapter 17)

1. Which voice is heard in the beginning of the chapter 17? Were Chauvelin’s men ready for the fight? What did Marguerite’s senses tell her?

Ans: A man singing ‘God save the King’ was heard in the beginning of the chapter 17. Yes, Chauvelin’s men were ready for the fight as Marguerite’s senses told her that each of them, with sword in hand, was crouching erady to spring on him.

1. Was the voice clear? Why? What was his song and how ironic was it?

Ans: The voice was not very clear. It was due to the load roar of the sea. Thus, it was impossible to say how near or how far or from which direction that cheerful singer was approaching. The song was ‘God save the King’ and it was ironic as he was asking God to save the king but he himself was in such a mortal danger.

1. How did Marguerite react when she heard the click?

Ans: As soon as Marguerite heard the click of the gun, she sprang to her feet with a wild shriek and darted round the boulder against which she had been cowering in fear.

1. How was Marguerite stopped from shouting further? What happened next? What instructions were given to Chauvelin?

Ans: Rough hands seized her immediately and threw her to the ground. She lay there, not caring, still half-sobbing, half shrieking. Chauvelin instructed his men to stuff her mouth with something. Hence, something was thrown on her face and she could not breathe nor could shout.

1. Describe the hut.

Ans: The hut was in complete darkness, except for the charcoal fire lighting up only the farthest corner of the hut with a dim red light.

1. How would you describe the men guarding the hut? Justify your opinion with the examples from the text.

Ans: The men guarding the hut were like machines. Following instructions blindly that were given to them and not using their own presence of mind. They were given instructions to only wait silently until the tall Englishman arrived to join the other four men in the hut. The Englishman did not arrive but in the bargain, the mindless guards allowed the four men to escape. Further justifying that they did not move as no such orders were given to them.

1. What had happened due to the men’s carelessness?

Ans: Due to the men’s carelessness, neither were they able to capture the Englishman nor were the four men kept in guard. Moreover, in the far distance, they faintly heard the quick and sharp splash of oars. Armand and his other three comrades had managed to escape.

1. What thoughts did Chauvelin get after he realised that Scarlet had again tricked him?

Ans: Chauvelin wondered if Scarlet had any supernatural abilities, if some mysterious power watched over the daring Scarlet Pimpernel making him invisible. He wondered where he had gone after he sung the song. As it was not possible to cover the distance to the beach in such a short time.

1. What message was brought by the men who ran after the fugitives? Name the fugitives.

Ans: The message they brought was that they had reached the beach just before the moon was hidden by the clouds. The boat had definitely been on the lookout for the refugees. Once they got into it, they saw the boat straight going towards the schooner. They fired but it was of no use. The boat must have had moved off some minutes before the woman began to scream. The fugitives were Armand, Count de Tournay,

1. Who were in the hut and what was found in the hut?

Ans: Two men along with Chauvelin were in the hut. A crumpled piece of paper was found in the hut.

1. Write briefly about what was found in the hut.

Ans: Crumpled piece of paper, evidently forgotten by the fugitives in their hurry was found. The sergeant picked up the paper and handed it to Chauvelin. A message from Scarlet to his men was given which had all the instructions to escape.

1. Which sentence Chauvelin focussed upon and what did he do next?

Ans: “I shall be at the creek, right opposite ‘Le Chat Gris’ near Calais.” He announced a reward of thousand francs to each man who gets to the creek opposite Le Chat Gris.

1. Who were left behind by Chauvelin? Why?

Ans: The old cart driver and Marguerite were left behind by Chauvelin. He announced that there was no point in watching over a woman who was half-dead. The old man was also left behind however his cart was taken so that they can drive to Calais.