Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: To Kill a Mockinbird- Ch 22

1. What was Jem’s reaction while returning from the court-room?

Ans: Jem was crying while returning from the court-room. His face was streaked with angry tears. He kept muttering that it wasn’t right while walking all the way to the corner of the square where they found Atticus waiting.

1. Where was Atticus standing? How did he react?

Ans: Atticus was standing under a street light at the corner of a square. He was standing as though nothing had happened. He was his impassive self again.

1. What did Aunt Alexandra tell Atticus? What was unusual about her addressing Atticus?

Ans: Aunt Alexandra told Atticus that she was sorry about what had happened. She addressed him as ‘brother’ which was unusual.

1. What did Jem do on reaching home? What did Scout think when he behaved so?

Ans: On reaching home, Jem was not even listening to what Aunt Alexandra was saying. He kept looking up at Atticus and then down at the floor. Scout wondered if Jem thought Atticus somehow responsible for Tom Robinson’s conviction.

1. What did Aunt Alexandra ask Atticus about Jem? What did Atticus say?

Ans: Aunt Alexandra asked Atticus if Jem was alright. Atticus told her that he would be alright in some time and that it had been a little too strong for him to tolerate what had happened in the court ( the conviction of Tom Robinson).

1. What was the argument between Atticus and his sister?

Ans: Aunt Alexandra told Atticus that she didn’t think it was wise to let the children witness the trial. Atticus explained that it was their home and that that is the way they had been brought up. He further told her that they (the children) might as well learn to cope up with the situation.

1. Write about the conversation between Jem and Atticus as Atticus was about to go to bed?

Ans: As Atticus was about to go to bed, Jem stopped him and asked him how could the jury convict Tom Robinson. Atticus did not have an answer to his question. He only said that that is the way it had always been. The coloured people were always on the receiving end. Whenever a case involved a white and a black, the black were always convicted. He further said it was only children who wept at such times.

1. What did Atticus mean by ‘only children weep’?

Ans: When Jem asked Atticus why Tom Robinson had been convicted, Atticus told him that it had always been like that and at such times only children wept. What he meant that the adults did not react in such situations. They become devoid of emotions as they grow and do not stand up against wrong done to humanity. On the other hand the children who are innocent and pure at heart sense the wrong done and react by crying. But sadly they cannot do anything about is as they are too young to do so.

1. What question did Jem’s morning face pose? What was Atticus’ answer?

Ans: The morning after Tom Robinson was convicted , Jem’s morning face posed him a question regarding what would happen to Tom now. Atticus reassured him that it was not over and there would be an appeal.

1. Why was Atticus staring at his breakfast table?

Ans: Atticus was staring at his breakfast table as it was loaded with food sent by the negroes as a token of their gratitude for whatever he had done to save Tom Robinson.

1. How did Atticus react when Calpurnia told him about the gifts that the negroes had sent?

Ans: When Calpurnia told Atticus about the loads of food sent by the negroes, his eyes were filled with tears. He told Calpurnia to tell them that he was very grateful but they must never it again as times were too hard.

1. Whom did the children see on the front porch? What were they doing?

Ans: When the children went to the front porch, Miss Stephanie Crawford was busy talking to Miss Maudie Artkinson and Mr Avery. They were probably discussing the proceedings of the previous day at the court.

1. What did Miss Stephanie tell him?

Ans: Miss Maudie called Jem and asked him who had given them permission to go to court. She further said that she hadn’t see them but it was known to all that they were in the coloured balcony. She also asked if Atticus had told them to sit there with the negroes. Miss Maudie went on to ask how they felt to see their father defeated.

1. What had Miss Maudie prepared for them? What was it a sign of?

Ans: Miss Maudie had prepared some cakes for them. It was Miss Maudie’s way of saying that as far as she was concerned, nothing had changed.

1. How did Miss Maudie try to pacify the Jem?

Ans: Miss Maudie tried to pacify Jem by telling him that things were not as bad as they seemed. She meant that there were some men who were meant to do unpleasant jobs and Atticus was one of them. When he said that Maycomb folks were not as good as he thought them to be , she told him not to think so. She said there were still good people in Maycomb and his father Atticus was one such person. She also told him that people like Mr Heck Tate and Judge Taylor were also with a kind heart. It was Judge Taylor’s kindness that he had appointed Atticus to defend Tom Robinson as he was sure Atticus would do his best to save him.

1. What did Jem say about Maycomb? What did he mean by saying so?

Ans: Jem said that he had always thought that Maycomb folks were the best folks in the world and he had felt as safe as a caterpillar in a cocoon. But somehow now he didn’t feel the same.

1. What is the ‘baby step’ that Miss Maudie refers to?

Ans: Miss Maudie tells Jem that she knew that Atticus wouldn’t win the case but he was the only man in Maycomb who could keep a jury out so long in a case like that – the only person who could make them think about a black being innocent. So Judge Taylor, who had appointed Atticus as the defense lawyer had done the right thing. All this was a step towards a positive change regarding discrimination. Though it was a ‘baby step’ , it was a step. It was the beginning of change.

1. What did Dill want to become when he grew up? How would he be different?

Ans: Dill wanted to be clown when he grew up so he could laugh about folks. Actually clowns are sad and people laugh at them. But Dill would be a different one. He would laugh at them.

1. What was the sudden change in the scene? What had actually happened?

Ans: Suddenly something seemed to be wrong. Miss Stephanie and Miss Rachel were waving wildly at them. Mr Avery was read in the face from a sneezing spell and nearly blew them off the sidewalk. Miss Stephanie was trembling with excitement and Miss Rachel caught Dill’s shoulder and told him to stay in the back yard as there was some danger approaching. Finally Miss Stephanie told them that Mr Bob Ewells had spat in Atticus face and told him that he would get him if it took the rest of his life.