Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Notes: To Kill a Mockingbird- Chapter 26

Answer the following :

1. Which assignment did Scout’s class have once a week? What were the children supposed to do?

Ans: Once a week Scout had a Current Events period. Each child was supposed to clip an item from a newspaper, absorb its contents and reveal then to the class.

1. What shortfalls did the ‘Current Events’ period overcome? How?

Ans: This practice overcame a variety of shortfalls among the children. Standing in front of his fellows encouraged good posture and gave a child poise, delivering a short talk made his word- conscious , learning his current event strengthened his memory, being singled out made him more than ever anxious to return to the group.

1. Why did the idea of having a ‘Current Events’ period not work?

Ans: Though the idea was profound, it did not work in Maycomb. In the first place few children had access to newspapers so the burden of Current Events was borne by the town children.

1. What would the rural children do? How did Miss Gates react to that?

Ans: Those rural children who could get some news would bring clippings from the Grit Paper, a publication which Miss Grates considered to be spurious ( fake).

1. Which current event did Cecil Jacobs mention? What information did Miss Gates give?

Ans: Cecil Jacobs mentions the news about Adolf Hitler who had begun putting the Jews in concentration camps and who had started consolidating his political power and rising as a dictator. Miss Gates condemns Hitler’s actions against the Jews and also gives the class a little lecture about the difference between democracy and dictatorship and about the persecution of Jews.

1. What did Scout think about Hitler? What was troubling her? What did she do about it?

Ans: Scout wondered how a single maniac ( Hitler) brought so much misery and why the Germans couldn’t rise against him. There was something that Miss Gates had said that was troubling her. She wanted to ask her father but thought otherwise and decided to talk to Jem.

1. What was Jem doing when Scout went to him to speak about her disturbance with respect to the topic of Hitler?

Ans: When Scout went to Jem to ask him questions, he was stuffing himself with bananas. He had not been allowed to play because he was underweight. His coach had told him that if he could gain twenty-five pounds by year after next he could play and having bananas was the quickest way to gain weight.

1. Which thoughts were in Scout’s mind with respect to Miss Gates views about Hitler?

Ans: Scout had earlier heard Miss Grates talk ill about the coloured people and then during the Current Events period she had shown contempt towards Hitler for her tyrannous behavior. Scout wondered how the same person could have contradictory views. On the one had Miss Grates talks ill about Hitler and at the same time she herself behaves in a prejudiced manner towards the coloured folk.

1. Why was Jem angry?

Ans: When Scout asked about Miss Grates contradictory view-points to Jem mentioning Tom’s trial, Jem was very annoyed and told her not to mention the court-house again.

1. What did Scout do after Jem’s outburst? What did Atticus have to say about it?

Ans: Scout was too shocked at Jem’s outburst to even cry. She just wanted her father’s comfort and went and sat in his lap. When Atticus heard about the whole thing, he told Scout that she shouldn’t feel bad about what Jem had done and added that he was going through a rough patch. He further said that Jem was trying hard to forget something, but what he was relly doing was storing it away for a while until enough time passed. Atticus assured her that later Jem would be able to think about it and sort things out.