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Subject :- English (CC-4 Unit-4 (M.A)) Sem

Topic :- Tom Jones : Henry Fielding.

Discuss the character of Sophia Western.

= Fielding's characters are representative English men and women of the Eighteenth Century, who represent the good nature and good humour of the English people. Scott says "The persons of the story live in England travel in England, quarrel and fight in England; and scarce an incident occurs, without it being marked by something which could not well have happened in any other country."

Sophia Western the heroine of the novel Tom Jones is one of the finest female character of Henry Fielding. She was the only child of a rich square, Mr Western. Her mother had died, but her father and her aunt did not let her feel the lack of motherly affection.

She was of Eighteen years when she met Tom Jones, ~~the~~ ~~we should say~~ ~~she~~ ~~first~~ ~~appeared~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~novel~~, she is so beautiful presented in the

novel that whosoever came in her contact was bound to fall in love with her. Tom Jones could not live without her, and was a staunch lover devotee of hers; Blifil applied all her tricks to marry her, Lord Fellamar had his own designs to make her his wife. Mr Allworthy, Mrs Honour and Mrs Miller, all appreciated her beauty, her manners and her charms. To celebrate her appearance Fielding devotes a separate chapter in the Book Four and writes:

"bedecked with beauty, youth, sprightliness, innocency, modesty and tenderness, breathing sweetness from her rosy lips and darting brightness from her sparkling eyes, the lovely Sophia comes."

Thus in many places Fielding has described ~~to~~ her beauty and qualities. Sophia with the highest degree of innocence and modesty had a remarkable sprightliness in her temper. She was educated under the care of her aunt, who was a lady of great discretion and was thoroughly acquainted with the world. By her conversation and instructions, Sophia was perfectly well-bred, though perhaps she wanted a little ease in her behaviour which is to be acquired only by habit and living within what is called the polite circle.

Her love for Tom Jones, however was a result of cool consideration and

thoughtful meditation. It was very strong and true. Her father and her aunt compelled her to give her consent to marry Bilfil. But she refused and declared it again and again that she wanted to marry Tom Jones. She told her aunt, "I hope madam, I shall never do anything to dishonour my family: but as for Mr. Bilfil whatever may be the consequence, I am resolved against him and no force shall prevail in his favour."

She was a girl of firm determination and strong will. When she got no sympathy from her father and her aunt, she decided to leave home and left for London stealthily. She was quite bold and courageous. When Mrs. Honour spoke of the fear of the robbers on the way, she did not get frightened. Yet her behaviour with her father was excellently well. She never had a single dispute with him till this unlucky affair of Bilfil. She had a great regard for her mother and could defend her in her father's view.

Sophia's ^{true} love finally got rewarded and she was allowed to marry Tom Jones. Tom has been in connection with other ladies like Molly and Lady Bellaston but it is Sophia, who is truly dedicated to her lover and finally her true love won.