

To Kill a Mockingbird

Study Guide Questions

Chapter 1

Directions: Copy and answer the following questions.

List the page number where you found the answer:

1. What was the name of Simon's homestead?
2. When Atticus went to Montgomery to read law, what tradition was broken?
3. Name the people who lived in the narrator's house?
4. How did Jem's mother die?
5. How many houses separated Atticus's residence from the Radley place?
6. What was Dill's full name?
7. T/F The Radleys were new to Maycomb County.
8. Who took Mr. Radley's place when he died?
9. Who wanted to try and make Boo come out?
10. T/F All three children touched the Radley place with their palms.

Chapter 2

1. What were Scout's feelings about the idea of beginning school?
2. What were Jem's feelings about taking Scout to school?
3. Describe what happened when Miss Caroline asked Scout to read.
4. Who taught Scout how to read?
5. How does Scout know about Walter Cunningham's family?
6. How did Miss Caroline punish Scout?
7. Describe the Dewey Decimal System from Scout's perspective.

Chapter 3

1. Why hasn't Walter Cunningham passed the first grade?
2. Why did Calpurnia request Scout's presence in the kitchen?
3. Where did Scout finish her dinner?
4. Was Atticus swayed by Scout's petition to have Calpurnia fired?
5. What crawled out of Burris Ewell's hair?
6. Who else besides Miss Caroline told Burris to go home?
7. What did Calpurnia do to make up with Scout?
8. According to Atticus, when does one understand a person?
9. Name two favors that Maycomb County gave the Ewells.
10. State the bargain that Atticus struck with Scout.

Chapter 4

1. What was in the knot-hole of one of the oak trees?
2. How does Scout's relationship with Calpurnia change?
3. Who was the "meanest old woman who ever lived"?
4. Describe the game that Scout, Jim, and Dill play.
5. What was Scout's first reason for wanting to quit the Boo-Radley game?
6. Who played the part of Boo?
7. How does Atticus react to the game? What does his reaction tell us about his character?

Chapter 5

1. Characterize Miss Maudie Atkinson (characterization=personality traits, actions, thoughts/feelings, other people's points of view). How typical is she of Maycomb's women? What do the children think of her?
2. What reasons does Atticus give for the children not to play the Boo Radley game? Do you think he is right? Why?

Chapter 6

1. Who is blamed for trespassing on the Radley Place? What does this blame reveal about the setting (time and place) of the novel?
2. How did Dill explain the loss of Jem's pants to the crowd in front of the Radley place?
3. T/F Scout protested against Jem going after his pants.
4. Was Jem's mission to retrieve his pants successful?

Chapter 7

1. What things did Jem and Scout find in the knot-hole?

When the children plan to send a letter to the person who leaves the gifts, they are prevented.

1. How does this happen?

2. Who does it, and why might he do so?

3. What is Jem's reaction?

Chapter 8

1. Why was Mrs. Radley's death a disappointment to Jem and Scout?
2. Why was school closed?
3. Besides Atticus, identify a new character who supports Jem and Scout. Provide evidence to support this character's benevolent spirit.
4. The snowman was a caricature of which neighbor?
5. After her house burnt to the ground and the fire trucks left, with whom did Miss Maudie stay?
6. Who put the blanket around Scout?

Chapter 9

1. What did Jem and Scout get for Christmas?
2. Describe Aunt Alexandra and explain her negative feelings about Scout. How does Aunt Alexandra perpetuate (promote and continue) stereotypes?
3. Talking to Francis gave Scout what kind of sensation?
4. Why did Scout split her knuckle to the bone on Francis's front teeth?
5. T/F Uncle Jack gave Scout a spanking without hearing her side of the story.
6. Did Atticus know Scout was eavesdropping when he spoke of the prejudice in Maycomb?
7. Explain at least two examples that reveal Atticus's parenting skills. Hint: What is Atticus trying to teach his children, Jem and Scout?

Chapter 10

1. Scout says that "Atticus was feeble" (weak). Do you think that this is her view as she tells the story or her view when she was younger? Does she still think this after the events recorded in this chapter? Why/Why not?
2. In this chapter Atticus tells his children that "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird". What reason does he give for saying this?
3. What does the shooting of Tim Johnson reveal about Heck Tate and Atticus? How does Atticus feel about how well he can shoot?
4. Jem and Scout have different views about telling people at school how well Atticus can shoot. Explain this difference. Which view is closer to your own?

Chapter 11

1. How does Atticus advise Jem to react to Mrs. Dubose's taunts?
2. What request does Mrs. Dubose make of Jem? What does Mrs. Dubose gain from this "punishment" to Jem? What does Jem gain?
3. What does Atticus teach Jem and Scout the true courage of Mrs. Dubose?

Chapter 12

1. What does the political cartoon of Atticus chained to a desk and wearing short pants mean to Jem?
2. Why should one not tell all one knows—according to Calpurnia?
3. Why are hymnals not used in the First Purchase A.M.E. Zion Church?
4. How is Zeebo related to Calpurnia?
5. Explain why Calpurnia speaks differently in the Finch household, and among her neighbors at church.

Chapter 13

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay with Atticus and his family?
2. How does Aunt Alexandra involve herself in Maycomb's social life?
3. What are Aunt Alexandra's ideas about breeding and family.
4. How does Scout react when Atticus tells them about “breeding and family”?

Chapter 14

1. How did Atticus explain what rape is to Scout?
2. How does Aunt Alexandra feel about Calpurnia? What is Atticus' answer?
3. What did Jem say he would do if Scout bothered Aunt Alexandra? How did she react?
4. What did Scout think was under her bed? What was it?
5. Why is Jem considered a "traitor"?

Chapter 15

1. Why was Heck worried about the "Old Sarum" bunch?
2. What does Atticus say about the Ku Klux Klan?
3. What did Atticus do after supper that the children thought was interesting?
4. What did they do after Aunt Alexandra went to sleep?
5. What does Scout do when she sees the group of men at the jail with Atticus?
6. Who does Scout see in the crowd?
7. What happens to make the men leave?

Chapter 16

1. How did Atticus feel about the children showing up the night before?
2. What does Aunt Alexandra tell Atticus not to do in front of Calpurnia?
3. Who is Dolphus Raymond?
4. What does Scout find out about Atticus' defending Tom Robinson?
5. Where do the children sit in the courtroom?
6. Why do the black people give up their seats for the children?

Chapter 17

1. Who testified first?
2. How did he describe Mayella's injuries?
3. How and where did the Ewell's live?
4. Why did Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name?

Chapter 18

1. Who is Mayella afraid of?
2. Why did Mayella think Atticus was mocking her?
3. How does Mayella feel about her father?
4. Why did Mayella ask Tom to come inside the fence?
5. What is wrong with Tom Robinson?
6. How did Mayella finally react to Atticus' questioning?
7. How many witnesses did Atticus have?

Chapter 19

1. How does Tom Robinson's testimony help his case?
2. How does his testimony hurt his case?
3. Which characters have courage to break society's code of ethics for this setting? Explain their courageous acts.
4. Why was Dill upset?

Chapter 20

1. What was in Mr. Dolphus Raymond's sack?
2. According to Atticus, where are all men equal?

Chapter 21

1. Why was Calpurnia in the courtroom?
2. How does Jem feel the trial will end?
3. Who believes that Tom Robinson has a chance at being set free? Why do they believe this?
4. Why do Reverend Sykes and the rest of the African American spectators stand for Atticus, even after his defendant Tom was found guilty?

Chapter 22

1. What did Calpurnia show Atticus the morning after the trial?
2. Why did Miss Maudie feel like the town of Maycomb was making a "step"?
3. Why did Judge Taylor appoint Atticus to Tom's case?
4. What did Bob Ewell do to Atticus?

Chapter 23

1. What was Atticus' response to Bob Ewell?
2. Why did Atticus feel like there was a possibility of change beginning?
3. How did Aunt Alexandra upset Scout?
4. Why does Jem think that Boo Radley stays inside his house? What has he learned about people?

Chapter 24

1. How does Scout feel about the women (Aunt Alexandra, Miss Rachel, Mrs. Merriweather, Miss Stephanie, and Miss Maudie) and their discussions in this chapter?
2. What is ironic about what the ladies are talking about?
3. Why did Tom try to escape from prison?
4. Explain briefly how Tom was killed.

Chapter 25

1. Why does Jem not want Scout to mash the roly-poly?
2. How did Scout find out what happened out at Tom Robinson's house?
3. What did Mr. Underwood write about in his editorial?
4. How is the meaning of the title revealed in this chapter?
5. Why is Tom's death considered "typical" in Maycomb?

Chapter 26

1. Why does Scout feel guilty when walking home from school?
2. What is Cecil Jacob's current event?
3. Identify at least one example that Scout is growing up and maturing and one example that Jem is growing up and maturing.
4. Why is it hypocritical of Miss Gates to teach a lesson on Hitler's persecution of the Jews?

Chapter 27

1. What trouble was Helen Robinson having out of the Ewells?
2. What was to occur on Halloween this year?
3. What is Scout's part in the play?
4. Who took Scout to the pageant?
5. Identify three threats that Bob Ewell allegedly makes against some Maycomb townspeople.

Chapter 28

1. Identify at least two signs that foreshadow trouble ahead.
2. Describe the setting when Scout and Jem were walking to the high school.
3. Who jumped out at them near the high school?
4. What happened during the play?
5. What does Jem hear when they are walking home?
6. What did Scout see in the road?
7. What had happened to Jem?
8. What did Heck Tate find when he went to the scene of the crime?

Chapter 29

1. What had happened to Scout's costume?
2. Why is Scout's ham costume significant to the story?
3. What had Atticus been mistaken about?
4. Who is the stranger standing in the corner of Jem's room?
5. Why might he be there?

Chapter 30

1. Why did Atticus want to go out onto the front porch to talk?
2. Who did Atticus think killed Bob Ewell?
3. What was Heck Tate's final decision about Bob's death?
4. Who killed Bob Ewell?
5. What did Atticus tell Boo?

Chapter 31

1. Comment on the way the narrator (Scout) summarizes earlier events and characters to show their significance.
 1. Refer to events and characters that include Boo Radley, Jem, Atticus, and the neighborhood as a whole.
 2. Why do you think Harper Lee (the author) chose to end her novel this way?
2. What was the one thing Boo said to Scout?
3. Why did she ask Boo to bend his arm down to her?
4. What did Atticus tell Scout about most people?