***To Kill a Mockingbird***: Study Guide (Class Set)

Harper Lee

[Born](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b&q=harper+lee+born&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEwqNK_QEstOttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWSflFeQA4PTToJQAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwix89Gs8P3XAhWBUyYKHeAFDz4Q6BMINCgAMAI): April 28, 1926, [Monroeville, AL](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b&q=Monroeville+Alabama&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MEwqNK9Q4gAxCy3TCrTEspOt9AtS8wtyUoFUUXF-nlVSflEeAAmzSqovAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwix89Gs8P3XAhWBUyYKHeAFDz4QmxMINSgBMAI&biw=1366&bih=633) Died February 19, 2016

**Published** in 1960

**Setting**: 1930’s Maycomb, Alabama

**Point of View**: Told in the first person as a flashback

Harper Lee based many of the occurrences in the novel on her life experiences. The town of Maycomb, Alabama is a fictional town based on Harper Lee's home town of Monroeville, Alabama.

**Symbolism & Themes**: Understand how different themes and symbols are relevant to the story. Find examples of how each are used.  
o   Mockingbirds  
o   Heroes  
o   Courage  
o   Right vs. Wrong  
o   Discrimination  
o   Racism

**Note**: Because the “N” word is used in this novel, several places have banned this book. I think it is important to note that while the word is used a few times in the novel, it was only used to further prove the characters who used this were ignorant and racist like some people during that time period. It shows the climate in which Atticus was trying to provide justice for Tom Robinson, wasn’t as open-minded and considerate towards others as it should have been. It wasn’t used as an acceptable term for educated people.

**TKAM**: Reading Plan:

Read Chapters 1-2

Watch Video

Read Chapters 3-11

Summarize Chapters 12-14

Read Chapter 15

Watch Video: 15-23

Summarize Chapter 23

Read: 24-31 (End)

**Scout (Jean Louise Finch)** Narrator of the story. The story takes place from the time Scout is aged 6 to 9, but she tells the story as an adult. Scout is a tomboy who would rather solve problems with her fists than with her head. Throughout the course of the book, Scout comes to a new understanding of human nature, societal expectations, and her own place in the world.

**Atticus Finch** Maycomb attorney and state legislative representative who is assigned to represent Tom Robinson. A widower, Atticus is a single parent to Jem & Scout.

**Jem (Jeremy Atticus Finch)** Scout's older brother who ages from 10 to 13 during the story. He is Scout's protector and one of her best friends.

**Aunt Alexandra** Atticus' sister. Aunt Alexandra lives at Finch's Landing, the Finch family homestead, but she moves in with Atticus and the children during the trial.

**Calpurnia** The Finchs' African American housekeeper. She grew up at Finch's Landing and moved with Atticus to Maycomb. She is the closest thing to a mother that Scout and Jem have. One of the few Negroes in town who can read and write, she teaches Scout to write.

**Zeebo** The town garbage collector who is also Calpurnia's son. He's one of four people who can read at the First Purchase African M.E. Church.

**Boo Radley (Mr. Arthur Radley)** The mysterious neighbor who piques the children's interest. They've never seen him and make a game of trying to get him to come outside.

**Nathan Radley** Boo Radley's brother who comes back to live with the family when Mr. Radley dies. **Mr. and Mrs. Radley** Boo and Nathan Radley's parents.

**Dill (Charles Baker Harris)** Jem and Scout's neighborhood friend. Living in Meridian, Mississippi, Dill spends every summer with his aunt, Miss Rachel Haverford.

**Miss Rachel Haverford** Dill's aunt who lives next door to the Finches.

**Miss Maudie Atkinson** One of Maycomb's most open-minded citizens, Miss Maudie lives across the street from Jem and Scout. An avid gardener, she often spends time talking with the children — especially Scout — helping them to better understand Atticus and their community.

**Miss Caroline** **Fisher**– Scout’s teacher

**Miss Stephanie Crawford** The neighborhood gossip.

**Mrs. Henry Lafayette** **Dubose** A cantankerous elderly woman who teaches Jem

and Scout a great lesson in bravery.

**Heck Tate** Sheriff of Maycomb County, Alabama

**Mr. Avery**: an overweight neighbor who tells Jem and Scout that dramatic changes in the weather are caused by disobedient and misbehaving children.

**Chapter 1 *To Kill A Mockingbird (Class Set)***

***Note: In chapter 1, we are exposed to the slow-paced life and culture of the south during the 1930s. These first few chapters serve to put you into the past and immerse you into Maycomb, Alabama. Notice the lifestyle, the phrases, the games, and the stories that you hear as you go back into a time where people didn’t have cell phones and technology. Where porches were important places for socialization and children invented games and socialized to keep themselves entertained.***

1.What does Atticus Finch do for a living and what happened to his wife?

2.What does the narrator say about the heat back then? What does this mean or what is the author’s purpose for saying this?

3.What does the narrator say about 24 hours in Maycomb back then? What is the author’s purpose of this or what does this mean?

4.When Charles Baker Harris shows up, he and Jem have a discussion until we learn that Charles Baker goes by the name of Dill. What is your favorite comment that they make towards each other and why?

5.Who is Arthur “Boo” Radley”? What did he do and according to Jem, what does he look like?

6.What does Jem do at the end of the chapter that showed courage?

7.From whose point of view will the story will be told?

***Note***: In this chapter we learn that Atticus is both a lawyer and had been elected to serve in the state legislature.

**Chapters 1-2 Vocabulary**

1. apothecary—one who prepares and sells medicines

2. assuaged—made less severe or burdensome

3. indigenous—occurring or living naturally in an area

4. malevolent—having or exhibiting hatred

5. mortification—a feeling of shame or humiliation

6. piety—religious devotion and reverence to God

7. sojourn—a brief, temporary stay

8. unsullied—spotlessly clean and fresh

9. vexations—irritations or annoyances

**Chapter 2**:

8.What were the rules Jem gave scout about how she should interact with him during school hours?

9.Explain this quote. What does it mean and why does Scout say this?

"Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing."

– Scout in *Chapter 2 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

10.Scout stands up and says, “Miss Caroline, he’s a Cunningham.” And then she sits back down. What was article of clothing was Walter missing? What do we learn about the Cunningham family from this scene?

11.Scout stands up and says, “Miss Caroline, he’s a Cunningham.” And then she sits back down. What do we learn about how people were accepted from this scene?

12.Why does Scout think Miss Caroline was going to spit in her hand? What does Miss Caroline actually do to Scout’s hand?

**Chapter 3**:

13.What does Scout do to get revenge on Walter for making her “start off on the wrong foot”? Did he really do this? What does this show about Scout’s personality?

14.Why does Jem treat Walter differently than Scout does?

15.Why is Scout punished during lunch?

16.What do the kids do when they are walking in front of the Radley house?

17.We have 2 different experiences with “creatures” in the classroom? What happens and how do the children’s reaction differ from Mr. Caroline?

18.What do we learn about Burris Ewell and his family? Why didn’t they have to go to school?

19.Ms. Caroline has had quite a first day. How do the children show compassion towards her? Which of the comments that they make while trying to console her is your favorite?

20.What compromise does Scout make with Atticus?

***Quote***:

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

– Atticus Finch *Chapter 3 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Chapter 4**:

21.What is the first gift that appears in the hollow tree?

22.What new facts does Dill offer about his father and his experiences with him? What Jem’s reaction?

***NOTE***: Stop reading a few paragraphs after Dill arrives and it says “Our first days of freedom, and we were tired. I wondered what the summer would bring.”

Summer comes at last, school ends, and Dill returns to Maycomb. He, Scout, and Jem begin their games again. One of the first things they do is roll one another inside an old tire. On Scout’s turn, she rolls in front of the Radley steps, and Jem and Scout panic. However, this incident gives Jem the idea for their next game: they will play “Boo Radley.” As the summer passes, their game becomes more complicated, until they are acting out an entire Radley family melodrama. Eventually, however, [Atticus](http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/mocking/character/atticus-finch/) catches them and asks if their game has anything to do with the Radleys. Jem lies, and Atticus goes back into the house. The kids wonder if it’s safe to play their game anymore.

**Chapter 5**:

23.What does Scout admire about Miss Maudie?

24.What do you learn about Uncle Tack?

25.What did the children do to get Boo to come out and why does their plan fail?

26.What order does Atticus give the children?

27. What does this quote mean?

"You are too young to understand it ... but sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of - oh, of your father."

- Miss Maudie in *Chapter 5 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

28.Let’s look at Scout’s character? How would you describe her? What has been your favorite “Scout moment” of the book so far? Why?

**Chapter 6**:

29.How do the children plan to spend Dill’s last night in Maycomb?

30.What does wrong with the children’s escape?

31.What makes Jem decide to return to the Radley yard that night?

**Class Discussion**: Have you ever done anything like Jem did that night?

**Chapter 7**:

***Note:*** Scout starts second grade

32.What does Jem tell Scout about “that night” at Boo Radley’s?

33.In what condition did Jem find his pants?

34.What new gifts do they find in the knothole? (There are five.)

35.What ends the knothole gifts?

36. What is Atticus’ opinion of the tree’s health, but what does he say about Mr. Radley’s actions?

**Note for Teacher**: Don’t forget to do the “Where Children Sleep” activity. (On weebly.)

**Chapter 8**:

37.What unusual weather conditions occurred in Maycomb?

38.After whom do the children model their creation? Atticus finds it humorous. What does Atticus mean when he says, “You’ve perpetrated near libel here in the front yard”?

39.When Miss Maudie’s house begins to burn, complicates matters for putting the fire out?

40.What is different about the fire departments back then compared to today?

41.Although they are concerned for Miss Maudie’s house, what other possibility is the Finch family worried about?

42. Where does the blanket around Scout come from?

**Chapter 9**:

***Note***: Because of the language / word choice used in this chapter, I almost just had you read a summary of the whole rather than reading any of the text; however, I feel that by reading it, you get to see Atticus’ lesson to Scout and to see that even though the word is used, it is used in this case as a lesson for Scout on why it is bad.

***Notice*** how Atticus corrects Scout’s word choice and he tells her that her word choice is “common.” He then tells her that even though “everyone” at school may use that word, it will now be “everybody less one.”

43.When Atticus is asked why he is representing Tom Robinson when he doesn’t think he will win the trial Atticus says, “Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win.” What does he mean?

44. Explain why Atticus is defending Tom Robinson.

45.When Scout is taunted by Cecil Jacobs a second time (the next day in the schoolyard), why didn’t she fight him? Why did she feel “noble”?

***NOTE*: Stop reading when Scout says, “Then Christmas came and disaster struck.”**

A few weeks later, Christmas arrives, and with the holiday we meet other members of Scout's family - especially Uncle Jack, Aunt Alexandra, and Francis. **Uncle Jack**, Atticus's younger brother, is a favorite. Scout informs us that he is one of the only doctors who never scared her. They travel, as they do every year, to Finch's Landing, the home of Aunt Alexandra, Uncle Jimmy, and Francis for Christmas dinner.

After eating a giant meal, Scout and Francis sit on the back steps. What begins as a civil conversation about Alexandra's cooking quickly turns unfriendly when Francis insults Dill and Scout after she declares their intention to someday marry. Francis's insults quickly turn towards race and his comments mirror Cecil's when he taunts Scout by calling Atticus a racist name. The prejudice in Maycomb is so strong that even family members blame Atticus for defending Tom. Scout gets angry, demanding Francis take back his words, though she doesn't understand how or why they are an insult. What she does know is that Francis is trying to say something bad about Atticus, and Scout is quick to jump to her father's defense. Francis runs away from Scout but doesn’t stop taunting her. Unlike the incident with Cecil, Scout doesn’t hold back and injures her hand punching Francis in the mouth. Uncle Jack catches Scout and punishes her for using bad language based upon Francis’ accusations without allowing Scout to tell her side of the story.

After leaving Finch’s farm and now back in Maycomb, [Scout](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters/jean-louise-finch-scout) tells Uncle [Jack](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters) why she hit Francis, but makes him promise not to say anything because [Atticus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters/atticus-finch) said she shouldn't fight anyone over the [Tom Robinson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters) case. Later that night, Scout overhears Jack telling Atticus he doesn't understand children. Atticus says you have to be honest with them. Jack learns the same lessons about human dignity and respect that Scout is learning. Jack punished Scout without first "stepping into her skin," so he didn't know she'd acted for good reason. Then [Atticus](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters/atticus-finch) says the trial will be bad, since "reasonable people go mad when anything involving" a black person comes up. He says the trial will be particularly tough on [Jem](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters/jeremy-atticus-finch-jem) and [Scout](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/to-kill-a-mockingbird/characters/jean-louise-finch-scout). The chapter ends with Scout saying, **“I never figured out how Atticus knew I was listening, and it was not until years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said.”**

46. Why do you think Atticus wanted Scout to hear the conversation?

**Quotes**:

You might hear some ugly talk about it at school, but do one thing for me if you will: you just hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat. Try fighting with your head for a change."

- Atticus Finch *Chapter 9 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

"Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win" – Atticus Finch *Chapter 9 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

"I was born good but had grown progressively worse every year."

- Scout in *Chapter 9 of* ***To Kill A Mockingbird***

**Chapter 10**:

***Note:*** Atticus is 50 years old.

47. What sport did Jem like to play and how did Atticus participate with Jem? What were his limits?

48.Why does Scout seem a little frustrated with Atticus Finch’s profession?

49.Scout says that “word got around that Scout Finch wouldn’t fight any more, her daddy wouldn’t let her.” How does she clarify that this isn’t exactly correct? What does this show about her personality?

50.Why does Atticus give the following instructions?

Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." – Atticus Finch *Chapter 10 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

51. What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about what her father could do (list 2-3 things)?

Jew’s Harp = (Show a video of what a Jew’s harp is.)

52. If you notice in the novel, Harper Lee criticizes those who claim to have Christian values, yet engage in racist actions and have racist beliefs that contradict Christian teachings. Who scores touchdowns for the Baptists and how might this serve as an example Harper Lee’s criticism?

***Notice*** when Calpurnia talks on the phone, there is an operator who connects her, Miss Eula May. Back in the day, one would pick up a phone (that was attached by a cord to the wall) and speak to an operator about who you wanted to speak to and that operator would then connect you with the person you wanted to call.

53.Who is Heck Tate?

54.According to Miss Maudie, what does Atticus do well and what is Atticus’s old nickname?

55.How do Jem and Scout view Atticus when the chapter opens and how/why does their view change by the end of the chapter?

**Quote**:

“Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

- Miss Maudie in *Chapter 10 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

“Atticus is real old, but I wouldn’t care if he couldn’t do anything-I wouldn’t care if he couldn’t do a blessed thing.” ***– Jem Finch in Chapter 10 of To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Chapter 11**:

56.In the first few paragraphs of the chapter, summarize what Mrs. Dubose is like and what is she rumored to carry?

57.What is Mrs. Dubose’s response when Scout says “Hey, Mrs. Dubose”?

58.What would Atticus do with his hat when he saw Mrs. Dubose and what would he say to her?

59.What does Atticus mean when he says that “The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience”? How does this relate to Atticus’ actions?

60.What does Jem do to get punished and what is his punishment?

61.Why does Atticus say this and how does it relate to Mrs. Dubose?

"I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what."

- Atticus Finch *Chapter 11 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Quotes:**

**“I certainly am. I do my best to love everybody.” – Atticus to Scout**

**Ch. 12-14 Summary:**

 At the start of Chapter 12, Jem has turned twelve years old, and he continues to grow farther apart from Scout. He continually tells Scout to "act like a girl," which, of course, only offends her. Scout begins to look forward to Dill's return that summer; however, she is disappointed when she receives a letter from him saying that his mother has remarried and he will be staying with his family in Meridian that summer instead. Adding to Scout's summer despair, Atticus is often absent from home because he is part of the state legislature, which has been called into session.  
  
    Calpurnia, who is minding the children, takes Jem and Scout to her church one day. The members of First Purchase Church-an all black church-are generally very inviting to Scout and Jem. After the service, Reverend Syke's takes up a collection of money for Tom Robinson's wife, who has not been able to find work since her husband was brought up on charges of raping a white woman. Scout also finds out that it was Bob Ewell who has made the accusations against Tom Robinson. Scout, knowing the community as she does and as innocent as she is, doesn't understand why anyone would believe Bob Ewell's word over anyone else's. This calls to mind the encounter with Burris Ewell earlier in the novel and his rude treatment of Miss Caroline. Scout is fairly oblivious to issues of race so, in her mind, the Ewells are incredibly low-class, so she can't understand how their word holds any merit. She fails to recognize that issues of race are at play.

    Here, the reader gets its first look at the African-American community in Maycomb. The church is simple and very poor; however, the people are kind to Scout and Jem and, even though they have little, they rally to support Tom Robinson's wife. Scout has never seen anything like their church before, and marvels at how the Church doesn't even have hymns. Calpurnia explains that most people can't read anyway. Instead, her son, who can read, sings out a line of a hymn and the crowd repeats it. The kindness of the congregation of First Purchase and their strong community helps to convey Harper Lee’s views on the unjust racism that is ever-present in Maycomb.  
  
    When Scout returns home from church, she find Aunt Alexandra has come to visit their home. Alexandra seems to believe the children would benefit from a feminine influence, and so she has decided to stay for a time. Alexandra quickly becomes quite popular in Maycomb, thriving in its social life, especially among the women. She attempts to instill in Jem and Scout a pride in their family legacy. Aunt Alexandra believes the Finch name to be a proud one, and she wants Jem and Scout to believe the same. After all, as we've seen in the novel so far, people are often defined by the attributes of their families. Alexandra tries to make Atticus talk to his children about family pride, but he just ends up upsetting Scout.

 Scout and Jem begin to notice that where they go about town, people seem to be whispering about them. Curious about the trial, Scout asks her father what rape is. After giving a very legal definition of rape that clears up nothing for Scout, Atticus asks why Scout doesn't ask Calpurnia. One thing leads to another, and Scout tells Atticus about how she went to Church with Calpurnia. Scout asks if she can go with Calpurnia again, and Aunt Alexandra is outraged. That night, Alexandra tries to talk Atticus into firing Calpurnia. Of course, Atticus will hear none of it. Jem tells Scout not to worry about it and to stop pestering Aunt Alexandra. Scout is angry at Jem for not taking her side and fights him.  
  
    Atticus breaks up the fight and sends them off to bed. When Scout goes to her room, she sees something under her bed. To her surprise, it's Dill. He has been unhappy with his life and the lack of attention his parents have been giving him, so he took himself on the train to Maycomb. Jem tells Atticus-despite Scout's protest- and Atticus goes next door to tell Dill's aunt, Miss Rachel.

**Chapter 15 (Read)**:

62..Who gathers in the Finch front yard? Why?

63..Contrast this group of men to the group who gather at the jail.

What was the purpose of Walter Cunningham's mob?

64.Why does Jem follow Atticus to town?

65.Why does the group at the jail break-up after Scout’s talk?

Note: An **entailment** is a situation where the owner of property has limited power over his own property. Entailment is the process in which a property cannot be sold, devised by will, or otherwise done anything with by the owner. The property passes by law to the heir of the owner upon his death. Entailment was used to keep properties in the main line of succession. The heir of an entailed property could not sell the land.

66.Who is Mr. Underwood and what has he been doing during the mob scene?

**Quote**:

"Atticus had said it was the polite thing to talk to people about what they were interested in, not about what you were interested in."

- Scout in *Chapter 15 of* ***To Kill A Mockingbird***

**Chapter 16 (Movie Only)**:

67.Where do the children sit for the trial? What does this tell you?

68.What point does Atticus make about Tom’s use of his arms? How does he make this point and why is this important?

69 / 70 (**Everyone Answer**): Based on your logic of watching the movie, what really happened between Tom and Mayella and what is the real reason why Tom Robinson is accused?

**Chiffarobe**: is a type of dresser with drawers that usually has space for hanging clothes

as well.

71.What happens as Atticus leaves the courtroom?

72. Why do you think that Harper Lee wrote this with the verdict that she did? Should she have written this book with a different outcome of the trial? Explain.

73. .What event happens after the trial with Mr. Ewell?

“We’re so rarely called on to be Christians, but when we are, we’ve got men like Atticus to go for us.” – Miss Maudie in Chapter 22 of ***To Kill A Mockingbird***

**Chapter 23 (Summary)**:

“‘I wish Bob Ewell wouldn’t chew tobacco,’ was all Atticus said about it.”

After hearing the story of how Bob Ewell spat in Atticus's face and dared him to fight, Scout and the kids set about trying to force Atticus to carry a gun and defend himself. They try a number of different tactics: asking him, throwing a tantrum, refusing to eat. Eventually, Atticus realizes just how scared they are and explains that he's willing to let Ewell spit in his face if it means Mayella and Ewell's other kids are spared a beating. Atticus doesn't think they have anything more to fear from Ewell, but Aunt Alexandra isn't sure. Atticus destroyed Ewell's credibility on the stand, and he's the kind to hold a grudge.

Scout and Jem then ask Atticus about Tom, who has been sent to Enfield Prison Farm in Chester County, seventy miles away. His wife and children aren't allowed to visit him. This sparks Jem to wonder if rape shouldn't be a capital offense and if the jury could've been more lenient with Tom. Atticus then explains to Jem that the law isn't fair sometimes and that judges and juries should be careful when sentencing convicts to death. He tells them in no uncertain terms that any white man who takes advantage of a black man is white trash and that one day something will happen to Mr. Ewell because of it.

It all comes back to the makeup of Tom's jury. Unfortunately, women weren't allowed to serve on juries in Alabama in the 1930s, so someone like Miss Maudie, who could've made a difference in Tom's trial, wasn't allowed to sit on the jury. However, there was one hold-out who kept insisting that Tom deserved an acquittal: one of the Cunninghams from Old Sarum. It turns out that Scout and Atticus earned the entire Cunningham family's respect that night outside the jailhouse, and on a hunch Atticus put one of them on the jury, thinking perhaps that this would work in his favor. It was a risk, but it almost worked. Because of this, Scout's opinion of Walter Cunningham changes and she makes plans to invite him over once school starts. Unfortunately, Aunt Alexandra doesn't like this idea. She thinks that Walter is not of high enough class to come eat.

Afterward, Jem shows Scout a hair (he thinks is) growing on his chest, and the two discuss Jem's theory that there are four different kinds of folks in Maycomb: people like them, people like the Cunninghams, people like the Ewells, and then the African- Americans. This is not terribly unlike Aunt Alexandra's caste system. Scout thinks there's only one kind of folks—folks—but Jem isn't so sure. He's beginning to think that Boo Radley stays inside all the time because he wants to.

**Quotes**:

"As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it - whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash." – *Atticus Finch*

"The one place where a man ought to get a square deal is in a courtroom, be he any color of the rainbow, but people have a way of carrying their resentments right into a jury box." – Atticus Finch *Chapter 23 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

"Atticus says you can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don't." – Jem in *Chapter 23 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

"If there's just one kind of folks, why can't they get along with each other? If they're all alike, why do they go out of their way to despise each other? Scout, I think I'm beginning to understand something. I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time... it's because he *wants* to stay inside."

- Jem in *Chapter 23 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Chapter 24**:

One day in August, Aunt Alexandra invites her missionary circle to tea. Scout, wearing a dress, helps Calpurnia bring in the tea, and Alexandra invites Scout to stay with the ladies. Scout listens to the missionary circle and Mrs. Merriweather first discuss the plight of the poor Mrunas, a benighted African tribe being converted to Christianity, and then she hears Mrs. Merriweather talk about how their own black servants have behaved badly ever since Tom Robinson’s trial. Miss Maudie shuts up their discussion with icy remarks. Suddenly, Atticus appears and calls Alexandra to the kitchen. There he tells her, Scout, Calpurnia, and Miss Maudie that Tom Robinson attempted to escape and was shot seventeen times. He takes Calpurnia with him to tell the Robinson family of Tom’s death. Alexandra asks Miss Maudie how the town can allow Atticus to wreck himself in pursuit of justice. Maudie replies that the town trusts him to do right. They return with Scout to the missionary circle, managing to act as if nothing is wrong.

Note: Mrs. Merriweather exemplifies the hypocrisy of Maycomb. She talks about "helping" the people of Africa, but she'd never treat them as equals, as indicated by her condescending attitude toward the black people of Maycomb.

**Quotes:**

"Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man. We trust him to do right. It's that simple."

– Miss Maudie in *Chapter 24 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Chapter 25**:

74.How does Tom Robinson relate to the symbol of the mockingbird?

**Chapter 26**:

75.Although she thought it had escaped his notice, Scout learns in this chapter that Atticus had known of one of her “crimes” for a long time. Which one?

76.What did Scout hear Miss Gates say at the courthouse? In class, Miss Gates said, "That's the difference between America and Germany. We are a democracy and Germany is a dictatorship. . . . We don't believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced." What does this tell us about Miss Gates? What strikes you as important about Miss Gates’s lesson on democracy?

**Chapter 27**:

WPA - (**WPA**; renamed in 1939 as the **Work Projects Administration**) was the largest and most ambitious American [New Deal agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Deal_agency), employing millions of people (mostly unskilled men) to carry out [public works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_works) projects,including the construction of public buildings and roads. Almost every community in the United States had a new park, bridge or school constructed by the agency. Headed by [Harry Hopkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Hopkins), the WPA provided jobs and income to the unemployed during the [Great Depression in the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression_in_the_United_States). Between 1935 and 1943, when the agency was disbanded, the WPA employed 8.5 million people. "The stated goal of public building programs was to end the depression or, at least, alleviate its worst effects.” Work relief was preferred over public assistance because it maintained self-respect, reinforced the work ethic, and kept skills sharp.

77.What has happened to Bob Ewell’s job at the WPA and who does he blame?

78.What happened at Judge Taylor’s house?

79.What two services does Link Deas perform for Helen Robinson because he “felt right bad about the way things turned out”?

80.What is Scout’s Costume and who will accompany Scout and Jem to the Halloween pageant?

**Chapter 28**:

81.Describe the setting on Halloween night:

82.What happens to Scout during the pageant and why is this important?

83.How does Jem get home?

84.What questions does Scout ask again and again?

85.Who is the children’s attacker?

**Chapter 29**:

86.What unexpected advantage did the ham outfit supply?

87.Who saved Jem and Scout?

88.What does Boo really look like?

**Chapter 30**:

89.How did Heck Tate want to explain Bob Ewell’s death? Why?

90.What did Scout mean by, “Well, it’d be sort of like shootin’ a mockingbird wouldn’t it.”

**Chapter 31**:

91.Scout shows her sensitivity and compassion for Boo Radley. Scout arranged things so that "if Miss Stephanie Crawford was watching from her upstairs window, she would see Arthur Radley escorting [her] down the sidewalk, as any gentleman would do." Why did she do that?

92.What do you learn about the plot of *The Gray Ghost*?

93.As Scout leaves the Radley porch, she looks out at the neighborhood and recounts the events of the last few years from the Radleys' perspective. Why is that important?

***Quotes***:

"Atticus, he was real nice"  
"Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them."

– Atticus Finch *Chapter 31* in***To Kill a Mockingbird***

"One time Atticus said you never really knew a man until you stood in his shoes and walked around in them." – Scout *Chapter 31 of* ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Post Reading**: To get full credit, you must use page numbers and specific quotes to reinforce your answers.

94 Many characters in the book exhibit some form of courage. Discuss the idea of courage, who shows it? Explain what real courage is and how each person meets the criteria for real courage.

95 The title of Lee's book is alluded to when Atticus gives his children air rifles and tells them that they can shoot all the bluejays they want, but "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." At the end of the novel, Scout likens the "sin" of naming Boo as Bob

Ewell's killer to "shootin' a mockingbird.” Discuss the title of the novel. What does it mean literally and metaphorically in the book? Who qualifies as a “mockingbird” in the novel? ." Do you think that Boo is the only innocent person, or mockingbird, in this novel? Why? What are modern-day mockingbirds?

96 What lessons does Atticus teach to his children in this book? Some of the lessons are direct and some are indirect. Is Atticus a good father? Why or why not. Be specific and use examples to support your ideas.

97 Although ***TKAM*** is set during the Great Depression, many critics have considered it a timeless classic.  What themes or ideas in the book could be considered timeless?  What are some modern day examples that prove this point to be true?

98 The Radley place undergoes a change in the course of the novel. At the beginning, we are told, “Inside the house lived a malevolent phantom” (p. 8). By the end, Scout fearlessly walks Boo up to his front porch. What change has taken place in Scout that allows her to walk with Boo? How has she changed since the beginning of the novel?

99 Maudie Atkinson says, “Atticus Finch was the deadest shot in Maycomb County in his time” (p. 98). What lessons do the Finch children learn from the incident with the mad dog? Explain in detail, indicating how they change their understanding of their father. How is the mad-dog a symbol of some Maycomb citizens?

100 Part of the Ewell property was described as...“against the fence, in a line, were six chipped-enamel slop jars holding brilliant red geraniums, cared for as tenderly as if they belonged to Miss Maudie Atkinson” (pp. 170-171). What do the flowers tell us about their keeper, Mayella Ewell? Are the geraniums a symbol? If so, why, and if not, why not?  Should we as a reader hate Mayella or feel sorry for her?

101 How does Harper Lee use minor characters in ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** to explore some of the main concerns/themes of the novel? How do the marginalized characters (Calpurnia, Tom, Boo) demonstrate heroic traits in ***To Kill a Mockingbird***? What role does race, age, gender, or social class play in the portrayal of an unlikely hero?

102. How can a book inspire a change in social justice? How does ***TKAM*** do this?

103**. Setting**: How does the setting of ***To Kill A Mockingbird*** impact the story?

104. In chapter 11, Atticus says, "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." How does this quote relate to Chapter 11 and how does this relate to Atticus & today?

105.**Symbolism & Themes**: Understand how different themes and symbols are relevant to the story. Find examples of how each are used.  
Mockingbirds / Heroes / Courage / Right vs. Wrong / Discrimination / Racism

**Other Possible Activities**:

-Multimodal Activity / -Watch: ***A Time to Kill*** movie / -Hero Paper

-Persuasive Speech / -Rewrite Ending / Pictures to represent key aspects of each chapter or themes

-Songs that relate to characters or songs that relate to scenes or social justice themes.

-Rewrite the ending of the novel starting with the end of the trial. The verdict doesn’t have to change and some things can stay the same, but how would you end the novel?