

*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
Study Questions

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as you read the novel. You may type or write your answers on a separate paper to include in your binder. Please answer in complete sentences. Although I will not be checking your packet for correctness, *please be sure your responses are thorough, thoughtful, and accurate.* We will use them for class discussions before the test, and a large portion of your test will come from these questions.

**PART ONE**

**Chapter 1**

1. Describe the setting of To Kill a Mockingbird after reading the first chapter. What time period is the novel set? How do you know this?
  
2. In this chapter, Harper Lee prepares the readers for the attitudes and prejudices that create the mood that prevail throughout the novel. What are some examples?
  
3. How do Jem, Scout, and Dill entertain themselves? What did Dill encourage Jem and Scout to do when they got bored with those activities?

**Chapter 2**

4. The definition of *satire* is: the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc. Using this definition to show how Harper Lee uses satire in describing Scout's experience with Miss Caroline Fisher.
  
5. Explain Scout's statement: "Walter hasn't got a quarter at home to bring you, and you can't use any stovewood."

**Chapter 3**

6. Compare and contrast Jem and Scout by using the way they treat Walter Cunningham.
  
7. In this chapter we meet a member of the Ewell family. Give a description of this character.
  
8. Evaluate Atticus's advice to Scout: "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."

#### **Chapter 4**

9. Who do you think was leaving gifts for Jem and Scout?
  
10. Describe the game played by the children. Why, do you think, does Jem evade Atticus's question when Atticus asked what they were playing?
  
11. Why does Scout want to quit their game?

#### **Chapter 5**

12. Why does Scout grow closer to Miss Maudie Atkinson. Explain the metaphor "chameleon lady."
  
13. What did Miss Maudie say that prompted Scout to defend her father? What did she say in his defense?
  
14. Judge the children's attempt to give a note to Boo. Do you think it was cruel? Explain.

#### **Chapter 6**

15. Explain the importance of Mr. Radley's assumption that a Negro was in his collard patch.
  
16. Why was it significant that Jem determined to return alone to the Radley residence to retrieve his pants?

#### **Chapter 7**

17. What surprise did Jem encounter when he returned to the Radley Place to retrieve his pants? Why did it upset him? Guess who was responsible and the possible significance.
  
18. List all of the gifts (even from previous chapters) put in the tree for the children.
  
19. Jem was obviously disturbed by the fact that Mr. Radley had filled the hole in the tree with cement. Why do you think he appeared more upset than Scout?

#### **Chapter 8**

20. What can you gather from Scout's use of the "n-word?"

21. Who put the blanket around Scout? Comment on the importance of this fact.
22. How did Miss Maudie react to the loss of her house? What can we learn from Miss Maudie from her reaction?

### **Chapter 9**

23. For the first 8 chapters, the plot focused around Boo Radley. In this chapter we are introduced to another plot—one involving Tom Robinson. Explain who Tom Robinson is and his relationship to Atticus Finch.
24. What prompted Atticus to advise Scout, “You just hold your head high and keep those fists down?” Why is this advice important?
25. Analyze Atticus’s statement: “Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win.”
26. Toward the end of this chapter Harper Lee uses foreshadowing to give us a hint of trouble to come. Cite one example.
27. What does Atticus mean by “Maycomb’s usual disease?”

### **Chapter 10**

28. Atticus gives the children air rifles and with them some very important advice. State that advice and explain the significance of the mockingbird.
29. At the beginning of this chapter, the children seemed to be somewhat ashamed of Atticus. Why?
30. What happens in this chapter to change the children’s opinion of Atticus?
31. What does Tim Johnson symbolize and why it is important that Atticus is the one who shot him?

### **Chapter 11**

32. Jem tried very hard to live up to Atticus's standards of being a gentleman. How did Mrs. Dubose provoke Jem into cutting the tops off her camellia bushes and breaking Scout's baton?
33. Explain Atticus's statement: "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." Do you agree?
34. Why is it important for Jem to read to Mrs. Dubose, and what does lesson does he learn during this time?
35. How did Atticus respond to Scout's question of whether or not he was an "N-lover?"
36. According to Atticus, why did Mrs. Dubose's actions show great courage? How did this relate to Atticus's own situation?

## **PART TWO**

### **Chapter 12**

37. What information do we learn about conditions in Alabama in 1935? Why might this information be significant to the plot?
38. Why did Reverend Sykes say, "Nobody leaves here till we have ten dollars?" What does this tell us about the black community in Maycomb?
39. Analyze Calpurnia's remark: "It's not necessary to tell all you know." Do you agree with this statement? Why?

### **Chapter 13**

40. How does Harper Lee use foreshadowing while explaining the reason for Aunt Alexandra's stay with them?
41. Atticus lectures the children about trying to live up to their name. Why did this upset Scout and Jem?
42. Harper Lee uses foreshadowing near the end of the chapter. Explain.

## Chapter 14

43. What did Jem do that “broke the remaining code of [their] childhood?” What do you think of this decision?
44. According to Dill, why did he run away? Why was this reason difficult for Scout to comprehend?
45. Dill constantly makes up tall tales. Explain why you think he does so.

## Chapter 15

46. Conclude why Mr. Tate says, “Change of venue. Not much point in that, now is it?”
47. Harper Lee uses foreshadowing in the beginning of the chapter to give the readers a clue as to what would happen at the end of the chapter. Explain.
48. Compare and contrast the crowd of men who gather outside the Finch home to those who gather in front of the jail.

*First Group:*

*Second Group:*

49. What happens to break the tension of the mob?
50. Atticus does not reprimand Jem for disobeying his instructions to go home. Why not?

## Chapter 16

51. How does Jem’s behavior toward Scout show his growing maturity?
52. Explain the reference to William Jennings Bryan.
53. Miss Maudie compares the atmosphere surrounding the trial to a Roman carnival. Why?
54. Miss Maudie uses sarcasm when asking Miss Stephanie about going to the courthouse. Explain.

55. Scout overhears a conversation among members of the Idlers' Club. What does she learn that puts a "different light on things?" Why does this confuse her?

### **Chapter 17**

56. If you had been on the jury, what would you have thought about the fact that no one had called a doctor to examine Mayella?
57. When Mr. Tate testified that Mayella Ewell had been beaten on the right side, something becomes clear to both Mr. Tate and Atticus. Predict what it might be.
58. Characterize the Ewells.

### **Chapter 18**

59. Cite evidence that Mayella was different from the Ewells.
60. Why does Mayella think that Atticus is making fun of her?
61. What pertinent fact did we learn about Tom Robinson's physical condition?
62. Atticus tries to point the guilt in another direction. Whom does he suspect?
63. If you had been on the jury, would you have had doubts regarding Tom Robinson's guilt? Explain.

### **Chapter 19**

64. Characterize Tom Robinson from what you learned in this chapter.
65. What did Scout mean by the following: "She was even lonelier than Boo Radley?"
66. How does Tom's testimony about the evening of November 21 differ from Mayella's?  
*Mayella's Testimony:*

*Tom's Testimony:*

67. Tom regretted his explanation of why he helped Mayella. Explain.

### **Chapter 20**

68. What does Mr. Dolphus Raymond mean by the following: “You little folks won’t tell on me now, will you? It’d ruin my reputation if you did?”

69. Why did Mr. Raymond entrust the children with his secret? What pessimism did he express?

70. Evaluate Atticus’s closing statements. If you had been on the jury, would he have convinced you of Tom’s innocence? Explain.

71. According to Atticus, Mayella was motivated to lie to rid herself of guilt. What rigid code of her society did she break?

72. Analyze Atticus’s statements: “Courts are the great levelers” and “A court is no better than each man of you sitting before me on this jury.”

### **Chapter 21**

73. Jem misinterprets Atticus’s statement, “But I expect it’ll be over before you get back.” Explain.

74. As Scout awaits the return of the jury, she is overcome with a certain impression. It reminds her of an impression she had had the winter before. Explain.

75. Why does Reverend Sykes ask Scout to stand?

### **Chapter 22**

76. Compare Atticus’s response to Jem’s question: “How could they do it?” to Dolphus Raymond’s reason for telling the children his secret in chapter 20.

77. Miss Maudie makes a gesture that implies that to her, Jem had matured greatly. Explain.

78. According to Miss Maudie, what ray of optimism could be found in the outcome of the trial?

### **Chapter 23**

79. In Chapter 3, Atticus gives Scout advice about how to understand a person. In this chapter, he uses similar advice to explain to Jem why he wasn't going to "do something about" Bob Ewell's threatening behavior. Explain.

80. Atticus shows pride in Jem's power of observation. Explain.

### **Chapter 24**

81. Explain the irony in the missionary circle's concern with the "squalid lives of the Mrunas."

82. Why did Scout assume that Mrs. Merriweather was talking about Mayella when she said, "Well, I always say forgive and forget..."?

83. Atticus says, "I told him what I thought, but I couldn't in truth say that we had more than a good chance." Judge Atticus's decision not to promise Tom more than "a good chance."

84. In this chapter, we see Aunt Alexandra's character develop more fully. Explain.

### **Chapter 25**

85. Jem stopped Scout from killing a roly-poly. Relate this to the major theme of the book.

86. The symbol of the mockingbird appeared once again in this chapter. Explain.

87. Analyze the statement: "In the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case."

### **Chapter 26**

88. Scout shows evidence of her growing maturity when she feels a "twinge of remorse" when passing the Radley Place. Explain.

89. What is ironic about Miss Gate's harsh censure of Hitler's persecution of the Jews?

### **Chapter 27**

90. What three things happen to frustrate Bob Ewell Further?

91. There is a feeling of apprehension at the end of this chapter. What elements fell create this mood?

### **Chapter 28**

92. The apprehensive mood continues in this chapter. What are some of the details that contribute to the mood before the attack on the children.

93. Why do you think Aunt Alexandra brought Scout her overalls rather than a dress?

94. Speculate who brought Jem inside.

95. What important news does Mr. Tate reveal at the end of this chapter?

### **Chapter 29**

96. Why does Aunt Alexandra feel guilty about the attack on the children?

97. Who brings Jem into the house?

### **Chapter 30**

98. What conclusion does Atticus jump to regarding the death of Bob Ewell?

99. Who really killed Bob Ewell? What evidence makes you think this?

100. Whose kitchen knife was it? Whose switchblade was it? Why does Mr. Tate say that he had taken the off the drunk earlier that evening?

101. Scout shows maturity by taking advice her father had given her and applying it to this situation. Explain.

### **Chapter 31**

102. How does Scout continue to show compassion to Boo?

103. What helps Scout "stand in Boo Radley's shoes?"