***To Kill a Mockingbird* Study Guide Questions**

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Directions: Answer the entire question in order to receive full credit; complete sentences are required. These questions will help you score well on quizzes & develop a deeper understanding of the events, characters, and themes in the novel. Expect reading quizzes daily. Answer the questions as you read or (better yet) after you read a chapter as a way of checking your understanding.

**Chapter 1**

1. Who is narrating the novel? Approximately how old is the narrator? In what point of view is the

novel told?

2. Where does this story take place (give details)?

3. Why do you think the children call their father Atticus rather than “Dad”?

4. Who were Atticus Finch’s first two clients? What happened to them? Why? How did this case change Atticus as a lawyer?

5. What happened to the narrator’s mother? How did her death affect the narrator? How did it affect Jem?

6. Describe Dill. Why has he come to Maycomb? What does Dill claim to have done with the “beautiful child” money?

7. Give 3 examples of rumors about the Radley house and its inhabitants.

8. What did Atticus mean when he told the children “there were other ways of making people into ghosts”?

9. Dill and Jem make a bet at the end of this chapter. What is their deal? What does Jem do to win the bet?

**Chapter 2**

1. Explain Jem and Scout’s interpretation of the “Dewey Decimal teaching system” that Miss Caroline uses.

2. Scout gets in trouble twice on the first day of school. What does she do to get in trouble?

3. Why won’t Walter Cunningham take Miss Caroline’s money?

4. What happens to Scout when she tells Miss Caroline about the Cunningham family?

**Chapter 3**

1. Why does Scout beat up Walter in the school yard before lunch?

2. Why has Walter been unable to pass the first grade?

3. What does Walter do at dinner (our version of lunch) that surprises Scout?

4. What does Calpurnia tell Scout as a result of her outburst?

5. Why do you think the Ewell children only come to school on the first day? What do you think is the reason many Maycomb children need to stay at home for the rest of the year?

6. What is Atticus’s solution when Scout tells him that she doesn’t want to go back to school?

7. What do we learn about the Ewell family from Scout and Atticus’s conversation?

**Chapter 4**

1. What treasures do Scout and Jem find in the knothole of the tree?

2. What new game do the kids create? How is it played?

3. What do we learn about the children’s belief in superstitions in this chapter? Explain their behavior.

4. Scout says that Atticus’s return was the second reason she wanted to quit playing. What was the first reason?

**Chapter 5**

1. Describe Miss Maudie.

2. What does Miss Maudie mean by “sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of—oh, your father”? Why do you think Scout doesn’t understand Miss Maudie’s analogy?

4. What do you think Scout means when she tells Dill, “You act like you grew ten inches in the night”?

5. What is the plan to get Boo Radley to come out? How well does the plan work? Why?

**Chapter 6**

1. Describe Mr. Avery. What do the kids wait for him to do every night?

2. Why do they decide to wait until nightfall to peek into the Radley house?

3. How does Dill claim Jem lost his pants?

4. What does Jem do after he knows Atticus is asleep? Why does he do this?

5. Why is Scout worried about him?

**Chapter 7**

1. What secret does Jem reveal to Scout?

2. What new treasures do the children find in the knothole?

3. What does Jem like best about sixth grade?

4. How do the kids express their appreciation?

5. What do they see the next day? Why do you think Mr. Nathan Radley told the kids that the tree was dying?

**Chapter 8**

1. Why does Scout think that the world is ending? On what does Mr. Avery blame this weather?

2. Why do the kids get in trouble for their snowman? How do they disguise it?

3. What does Scout worry about if the Finch house should catch fire?

4. What happens to Scout the night of the fire? Who witnesses this?

**Chapter 9**

1. Why does Scout get in a fight with Cecil Jacobs?

2. Why does Atticus feel he needs to defend Tom Robinson?

3. What do you think Atticus means when he says, “Just because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us to not try to win”?

4. What do the children get for Christmas?

5. Why does Scout get in a fight with Francis? What is the result?

6. Describe Scout’s relationship with Uncle Jack.

**Chapter 10**

1. Name five things we learn about Atticus in this chapter. How does Scout feel about her father at the beginning of this chapter?

2. According to Miss Maudie, why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?

3. Why does Mr. Tate give the rifle to Atticus, rather than shooting the dog himself?

**Chapter 11**

1. Describe Mrs. Dubose.

2. What does Atticus mean when he says, “This case, Tom Robinson’s case, is something that goes to the essence of a man’s conscience—Scout, I couldn’t go to church and worship God if I didn’t try to help that man”?

3. What is Jem’s punishment for ruining the flower garden?

4. Why is Mrs. Dubose so sick?

5. What does Atticus tell Jem was the one thing Mrs. Dubose wanted to do before she died?

6. What is the reason Atticus wanted Jem to meet Mrs. Dubose?

**Chapter 12**

1. Why is Jem so “inconsistent and moody”?

2. Why wasn’t Dill able to come to Maycomb this summer?

3. How do the people at Cal’s church treat the children?

4. Why is the church collecting ten dollars?

5. Of what is Tom Robinson accused? Why won’t anyone hire his wife?

6. How does Scout feel Calpurnia is different at her own church?

**Chapter 13**

1. Why has Aunt Alexandra come to Maycomb?

2. Describe Aunt Alexandra. Besides the fact that she once lived in Maycomb and she knows everyone, why does she fit in so well in Maycomb?

3. Describe the premise of the “talk” Aunt Alexandra makes Atticus have with the children. According to Scout, why does the talk fail?

4. What does this conversation between Atticus and the children reveal about their relationship as a family?

**Chapter 14**

1. How do the people of Maycomb begin to treat Atticus and the children?

2. Where does Scout find Dill?

3. What does Dill claim is the reason he ran away from home? What is the real reason?

**Chapter 15**

1. Why do the men come to talk to Atticus at his house?

2. Why do you think all the lights were off at the jailhouse except the one lamp Atticus brought from home?

3. Who among the men does Scout recognize? Why do the men finally leave? (interpret the scene)

4. Who was “covering” Atticus the whole time?

5. How does Atticus show his affection towards Jem?

**Chapter 16**

1. What does Atticus mean when he says that Mr. Cunningham has “blind spots”?

2. Who is Dolphus Raymond? What do we learn about him and the way he lives his life?

3. Although Atticus has been appointed to defend Tom, the people of Maycomb are against it. Why?

4. Who helps the kids find a seat in the courtroom? Where do they sit?

**Chapter 17**

1. Why does Atticus ask whether anyone called for a doctor? Why is this important?

2. Where do the Ewells live? Describe their home and living conditions. What do they subsist upon, and what does this tell about them? (Not just poverty…)

3. Contrast the homes of the black families nearby with the Ewell’s.

4. Summarize Bob Ewell’s interpretation of the incident.

5. What do you think Jem realizes when he pounds the rail and says, “We’ve got him”?

6. What is the old saying Scout refers to when she says, “I thought Jem was counting his chickens”?

**Chapter 18**

1. Why does Mayella think Atticus is mocking her?

2. What more do we learn about the Ewell family from Atticus’s cross examination?

**Chapter 19**

1. Why does Atticus bring up the fact that Tom Robinson had been in trouble before?

2. Who does Tom work for? What does he do for him?

3. How did Mayella get rid of the children that particular day?

4. Why did Tom run away from the Ewell place? What was his predicament?

5. Who came to Tom’s defense in the courtroom? What did he say?

6. Why does Dill get so upset at Mr. Gilmer that it makes him sick?

**Chapter 20**

1. Who do Dill and Scout meet outside? What do they learn about him? Why does he go though such trouble to pretend?

2. What do you think Atticus means by, “This case is as simple as black and white”? What is the more significant meaning behind his claim?

3. What is the “lie” Atticus talks about? What is the reality that he is hoping the jury will see?

4. How does Atticus claim that we are not all created equal?

5. Ideally, in what realm is every citizen of the United States truly equal? How is this the “great leveler”?

**Chapter 21**

1. Why does Calpurnia come to the courthouse?

2. Why do you think Atticus avoids answering Jem’s question, “Do you think they’ll acquit him that fast?”

3. Other than the fact that they didn’t know where the children were, why do you think Calpurnia and Aunt Alexandra were so upset that the children were watching the trial?

4. About how long does it take for the jury to come up with their verdict?

5. How does Scout know the verdict before it is announced?

**Chapter 22**

1. What is Jem’s reaction to the verdict?

2. What does Atticus mean when he says, “They’ve done it before and they did it tonight and they’ll do it again and when they do it—seems that only children weep”?

3. How does the black community show its appreciation for what Atticus did?

4. Why does Miss Maudie believe that appointing Atticus was no accident?

**Chapter 23**

1. How does Miss Stephanie embellish what happened to Atticus?

2. Why does Atticus defend Bob’s actions to Jem? What is Atticus’s hope?

3. What are Jem’s suggestions for change in the court system and laws?

4. Why did Atticus put a Cunningham on the jury?

5. According to Jem, who are the “four kinds of folks” in Maycomb? Explain how this theory works. Why are the Finches at the top of this “chain”?

6. What is the reason Boo Radley doesn’t come out of his house, according to Jem? What does he mean by this?

**Chapter 24**

1. Briefly describe the women of Maycomb.

2. How does the author reveal the fact that these women are hypocrites?

3. To whom might Miss Merriweather be referring when she says that there are some “good but misguided people in this town”?

4. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says that the town is “paying the highest tribute” to Atticus?

5. Why do Aunt Alexandra and Scout pretend that nothing is wrong when they return to the ladies?

**Chapter 25**

1. Why won’t Jem let Scout kill the roly-poly?

2. How did Tom’s wife react to the news of Tom’s death, according to Dill? What is Maycomb’s reaction to Tom’s death?

**Chapter 26**

1. What is Cecil’s current event about?

2. What is ironic about the discussion concerning Hitler’s persecution of Jews in Scout’s class vis a vis the recent events in the town?

3. How does Jem react when Scout tells him about overhearing Miss Gates at the courthouse?

4. Why do you think he reacts this way?

**Chapter 27**

1. What happened to Mr. Ewell that October?

2. What happens to Judge Taylor?

3. How does Mr. Link Deas help Helen Robinson?

5. The last sentence, “Thus began our long journey together” is a bit of foreshadowing. Predict what you think might happen this Halloween night.

**Chapter 28**

1. Describe the weather at the beginning of the chapter. How might the weather contribute to the mood of the story?

2. After the pageant, why does Scout want to go back to the school?

3. What saves Scout from being badly injured during the attack?

4. What happens to Bob Ewell?

**Chapter 29**

1. What does Scout hear after Jem tries dragging Scout to safety?

2. Describe Boo Radley.

3. How do you think Scout recognizes Boo Radley, even though she has never really seen him before?

**Chapter 30**

1. Why would Atticus invite everyone to the front porch rather than the living room?

2. Why does Atticus argue with Tate about how Ewell was killed?

3. From where does Tate say he got the switchblade? Why do you think he has the switchblade?

4.What does Atticus finally realize?

5. To whom is Tate referring when he says, “…taking the man that has done you and this town a great service an’ draggin’ him with his shy ways into the limelight—to me, that’s a sin”?

**Chapter 31**

1. Why does Boo want Scout to take him home? Considering his age, what is unusual about his request?

2. What is significant about Scout looking at the world from the Radley porch?

3. Why do you think the author ended the book with the line, “Most people are [nice], Scout, when you finally see them.” To whom or what is Atticus referring? What does he mean when he says, “...when you finally see them”?