To Kill A Mockingbird

**Chapters 1,2,3**

**Vocabulary:**

# Iniquity:

Contentious:

Fractious:

# Comprehension

1. In whose “voice” is the first chapter written?
2. How does the voice change?
3. What events do the first few paragraphs suggest will be the focus of the story?
4. Describe: (3 details each)
   1. Miss Fisher
   2. The Cunninghams
   3. Burris Ewell
5. Arthur “Boo” is referred to as a “malevolent phantom” – a mysterious character whose reputation is partly rooted in fact, and partly in fiction. Identify three “facts” from the story and three probable “fictions” concerning Boo Radley.
6. Describe two incidences that cause Scout to dislike Miss Fisher on the first day of school.
7. Why does Calpurnia become angry with Scout?
8. What advice does Atticus give Scout when she appeals to him to let her drop out of school?
9. Give an example of Maycomb’s way of “bending the rules” for Mr. Ewell. Why is this tolerated, according to Atticus?

## Reading Response

You are Miss Fisher. You are sitting at your desk at the end of your first day of teaching school in Maycomb. Write a letter back home describing your day and your feelings.

**Bonus:** On page 10 the narrator states that “Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.” To what is the narrator referring, and what inference can be made from that statement? (suggested sources – parents or famous quotations about “fear”)

# Chapters 4,5

**Vocabulary:**

Parched:

Ethical:

Palette:

Plotting:

Aloof:

Benign:

Benevolence:

**Questions:**

1. What items did the children find in the knot-hole of a tree in front of the Radley place?

2. What did Jem tell Scout to do with the item she found? Why?

3. Dill tells Jem and Scout a couple of suspicious “whoppers”. Identify two.

4. What is a “hot steam”?

5. Describe Miss Maudie Atkinson. What does she like? What does she dislike? (4 or 5 sentences).

6. What does she tell the children about Boo Radley?

7. What plan do Jem and Dill come up with and how does it end?

**Chapters 6, 7, 8**

**Vocabulary:**

Pilgrimage – a journey to a sacred or holy place

Unfathomable – not able to be understood

Aberrations – “wandering from the right path”; temporary mental disorders

“Touchous” – slang for “touchy” (irritable)

Morphodite - slang “ghastly figure”

Quell - to end; to overcome

**Questions:**

1. What reasons does Jem give Scout for choosing that particular night to try to peek into the Radley house?
2. What circumstances made a “quick escape” difficult?
3. Why was returning to fetch his pants so risky for Jem?
4. What unusual circumstance about his secret journey to retrieve his pants did Jem eventually reveal to Scout?
5. How did Mr. Avery account for the wintry weather?
6. What is the likely explanation for the fire at Miss Maudie’s?
7. Describe Miss Maudie’s mood the day after the fire.

**Chapters 9,10, 11**

**Vocabulary:**

Lineaments –features or characteristics, especially of the face

Ingenuous – sincere, frank, open

Diversions- an amusing pastime

Changeling –a child who has been substituted for another

Guilelessness – lacking deceit; honest

Obstreperous - noisy and unruly

Passé – out of fashion, no longer useful

Wrathful – full of anger or rage

Apoplectic – extreme emotional reaction; capable of causing a stroke

Philippic – a bitter verbal attack

Interdict – a formal order forbidding something

Palliation – softening harmful effects without curing

Undulate – moving in waves

Propensities – natural inclinations

Cantankerous –having a disagreeable, quarrelsome, contrary nature

**Questions:**

1. List three details about the legal case Atticus call “the one case in his lifetime that touches him personally”.
2. How does Atticus warn Jem and Scout he wants them to behave during this time?
3. What complaint about Atticus does Scout relate at the beginning of Chapter 10?
4. What special skills does Miss Maudie claim Atticus possesses?
5. What *skill* and what *trait* of Atticus’s are revealed by the Tim Johnson incident?
6. Why is it “a sin to kill a mockingbird”?
7. Identify three insults Mrs. Dubose directs at the children.
8. Why does Atticus call Mrs. Dubose “the bravest person I ever knew”?

# Reading Response

As Scout, write a letter to Dill explaining what you have learned from the incidences involving Tim Johnson and Mrs. Dubose.

# Chapters 12, 13, 14

**Vocabulary:**

Habiliments – articles of clothing

Haughty – excessively proud of oneself and scornful of others

Rotogravure – a kind of engraved image

Innate – inborn; built in; e.g. he had an innate sense of direction

Caste system – a social system that separates members by class, according to factors such as heredity, rank, wealth or position

Edification – spiritual benefit

Infallible – incapable of error

**Questions:**

1. What news is contained in the letter Scout receives from Dill?
2. What details convey the idea that going to church is of great importance to Calpurnia? (2 details)
3. Describe Calpurnia’s church. (4 details)
4. What does Scout find out about Tom Robinson? Why is his wife having a hard time finding work?
5. What does Aunt Alexandra influence Atticus to do?
6. How does he change his mind?
7. Identify three incidences that culminate with Scout attacking Jem.
8. Why did Dill run away?
9. Describe three details about his journey to Maycomb.

**Chapters 15 and 16**

# Vocabulary

Placid – calm; peaceful

Acquiescence – to give in; to accept by not objecting

Overture – an offer or proposal

Futility – uselessness; having no effect

Uncouth – vulgar; crude

Akimbo – at sharp angles; hands on hips with elbows out

Countenance – facial expression

Elucidate – to make clear; to explain in detail

Connivance – to conspire, or to encourage or assent to wrongful acts

Litigants – persons engaged in a lawsuit

# Questions

1. What details is Scout able to determine about “the problem” Atticus discusses outside the house with Heck Tate?
2. What does Atticus tell Jem about the Ku Klux Klan?
3. Where was Heck Tate when the gang from Old Sarum came to the jail at night?
4. How did Scout’s action diffuse the tension?
5. Besides the children, who else was listening to the confrontation?
6. What did Atticus tell the children about “mobs” the morning after the incident at the jail? What is he suggesting about human nature?
7. Identify and describe two groups of characters traveling to the courthouse the children observed.
8. What is meant by the comment to Miss Maudie that, “He that cometh in vanity departeth in darkness.”
9. What details are observed by the children at the courthouse which reveal the “southern caste system” that existed at that time.

## Reading Response

You are Atticus. Write a letter to a friend explaining the confrontation at the jail. Start with meeting Heck Tate at your house in the afternoon.

**Chapters 17**

**Vocabulary**

Solicitor – lawyer: chief legal representative for a region

Gullet – throat

Amiably – in a friendly way

“bantam cock”- a small breed of rooster

indigenous – native to a particular area

**Questions:**

1. In 2 – 3 sentences, paraphrase Sheriff Tate’s testimony.
2. What information was revealed by Atticus’s cross-examination?
3. Identify three details which reveal the Ewell’s squalid living conditions.
4. In 2-3 sentences summarize or paraphrase Mr. Ewell’s testimony.

Chapters 18 / 19

1. There are several details which contribute to a sense of tragic sympathy for Mayella Ewell. Identify four such details from these two chapters.
2. Why does she distrust Atticus?
3. What is Mayella’s version of the crime?
4. Atticus questions Mayella very amiably until what point in her testimony?
5. What significant fact is brought to light which challenges the accuracy of Mayella’s testimony?
6. What does Atticus suggest to Mayella is “the truth”?
7. What is Tom Robinson’s version of the crime?
8. What details suggest that Tom is a nice person?
9. What is Mr. Gilmer, the prosecutor, attempting to prove by his cross-examination of Tom ?
10. What “mistake” does Tom make in his testimony?
11. Why does Dill become ill?

Chapter 20

**Questions:**

1. What is Dolphus Raymond’s explanation for drinking cola from a sack?
2. What does he suggest will happen to the children when they grow up?
3. What outcome of the trial does Jem predict?
4. What does Atticus do when he addresses the jury that surprises the jury, and what might be a possible explanation for this?
5. What argument does Atticus use to try to persuade the jury to acquit Tom?

**Chapters 21 – 22**

**Vocabulary:**

Remorse – sorrow; regret

Furtive – secretive

Stolidly – unexcitedly; showing no emotion

Wrathfully – full or rage; angrily

Duress – being forced or strongly encouraged to act against one’s nature

Squalor – miserable, filthy conditions;

**Questions:**

1. What details suggest the community was intensely interested in the verdict?
2. How did the black community respond to Atticus’s defence of Tom? (support with 3 details)
3. What message does Miss Maudie try to convey to Jem about justice in Maycomb?
4. In two sentences, summarize the confrontation which occurred between Atticus and Bob Ewell at the post office.

**Chapters 23, 24**

1. How does Atticus try to minimize Jem’s fears?
2. Why does Aunt Alexandra forbid Scout from inviting Walter Cunningham over?
3. In the description of Aunt Alexandra’s missionary circle meeting, there are many examples of irony and “hypocrisy”, as we see the meeting through Scout’s eyes. Find one clear example of irony, and one clear example of “hypocrisy”. (Irony – where the action or statement that occurs is the opposite of what one is led to expect. Hypocrisy – “pretending” to be good; expressing support for values one do not convey through actions)
4. About whom did Scout believe the ladies were speaking when one said that, “the church ought to help her lead a Christian life”?
5. Assume you are Scout. For each of the following ladies who attended the missionary circle, explain in one sentence whether they are : ”hypocrites” or “genuinely good”; Aunt Alexandra, Miss Rachel, Miss Maudie, Stephanie Crawford, Grace Merriweather, and Mrs. Farrow.
6. What did Miss Maudie mean when she said, “His food doesn’t stick going down, does it?”

**Chapters 25 – 27**

**Vocabulary:**

Persecution: to treat badly or to oppress; to cause harm repeatedly

**Questions:**

1. What details in Dill’s description contribute to s sense of suspense and foreboding in his telling of the story about the visit to the Robinson’s?
2. How did most townsfolk respond to Tom’s death?
3. How did Mr. Underwood respond to Tom’s death?
4. What did Bob Ewell reportedly say, and why would this be ominous to Jem ad Scout?
5. How has going to school changed for Jem, now that he is in grade 7?
6. What does Atticus say to Scout that reveals his knowledge of the “truth” about the night Mr. Radley shot at prowlers?
7. Why is Scout confused after Miss Gates explanation about Hitler’s persecution of the Jewish people in Germany?
8. What three “unusual events” occurred in Maycomb that October?

**Chapters 28 –31**

**Vocabulary:**

Exploits – a daring deed

Staccato – quick and sharp

Acquiescence – to accept quietly

**Questions:**

1. List three details that contribute to a suspenseful mood as Jem and Scout make their way to the high school.
2. How did Scout provide “comic relief” during the pageant?
3. What were Scout’s first thoughts when Jem told her to be quiet and listen as they walked home?
4. List three details that Scout was able to determine about her “unknown assailant”.
5. What wrongful impression did Atticus have when Mr. Tate told him that Bob Ewell was dead?
6. What is the significance of the following passage:
   1. “This thing probably saved her life. Look.” He pointed with a long forefinger. A shiny clean line stood out on the dull wire. “Bob Ewell meant business”, Mr. Tate muttered.
7. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife?
8. What does Scout tell Atticus when he asks her if she understands the situation?
9. What “change” occurs in Scout as she stands on the Radley porch?