

To Kill a Mockingbird

Reading and Study Guide

Following are questions on each chapter that will help you understand this book.

Chapter One

1. Describe the setting of the story.
2. Harper Lee uses *satire* to tell her story. Explain.
3. How did the kids entertain themselves?
4. What is unusual about the relationship the children have with their father?
5. Describe Dill.

Chapter Two

6. Why wasn't the first day of school successful for Scout?
7. What education did Miss Caroline receive that first day?
8. How does Scout feel about her teacher?

Chapter 3

9. Why was Atticus able to talk with Walter Cunningham like a grown man?
10. Describe Miss Caroline's incident with Burris Ewell.
11. How does Atticus keep Scout going to school each day?

Chapter 4

12. Why would gum and Indian Head pennies be good gifts for the children?
13. Why would you think Boo Radley was the one leaving gifts for the children?
14. What play were the children doing that summer?

Chapter Five

15. Why did Scout spend time with Miss Maudie Atkinson?
16. Why does Miss Maudie think the Radley place is a sad house?
17. Explain what 'footwashers' has to do with the plot.
18. Judge the children's attempt to give Boo Radley a note.
19. Explain: "Jem ...realized that he had been done in by the oldest lawyer's trick on record."

Chapter Six

20. What went wrong in Jem and Dill's plot to peep in the window at Boo Radley?
21. Explain the importance of Mr. Radley's assumption that it was a Negro in his collard patch.
22. Why was it important that Jem return alone to retrieve his pants?

Chapter 7

23. What surprise did Jem find when he got back his pants?
24. What were all the gifts the children found in the tree?
25. What excuse did Mr. Radley give for filing in the hole with cement?
26. Why do you think Jem was more upset than Scout with this?

Chapter 8

27. How did the children act in the snow and why?
28. Who did Mr. Avery blame for the harsh winter and what was his source?
29. Why did the children have to disguise the snowman and how did they do it?

30. Explain about the blanket.
31. What was Miss Maudie's reaction to the loss of her house?

Chapter 9

32. Why did Atticus decide to defend Tom Robinson? List all the reasons.
33. What advice did he give Scout and why?
34. What foreshadowing does the author use to give us a hint of the trouble to come?
35. What is 'Maycomb's usual disease'?

Chapter 10

36. What advice did Atticus give with the air rifles?
37. What is the significance of the Mockingbird?
38. Why are the children ashamed of Atticus in the beginning of this chapter?
39. How did shooting the dog change their opinion?

Chapter 11

40. Why did Jem have to read to Miss Dubose?
41. What strange thing happens at Miss Dubose's house when Jem reads to her?
42. What does Jem later find out about his reading sessions?
43. Why is Miss Dubois a courageous woman in Atticus's eyes?

Chapter 12

44. What information about conditions in Alabama in 1935 might be significant to the plot?
45. How does First Purchase African M.E. Church get its name?
46. How were the children treated and why?
47. What does Reverend Sykes's comment, "Nobody leaves here till we have ten dollars," tell you about the black community?

Chapter 13

48. Why did Aunt Alexandra come to stay with the children?
49. What all does Aunt Alexandra tell them about?

Chapter 14

50. Explain why you think Dill ran away from home.
51. How does Jem break the remaining code of childhood?

Chapter 15

52. How did Scout avert trouble at the jail?

Chapter 16

53. Miss Maudie compared the atmosphere surrounding the trial to a Roman carnival. Explain.
54. Where and with whom did the children view the trial?

Chapter 17

55. Describe how the Ewells lived.
56. Why was it important the Bob Ewell wrote with his left hand?

Chapter 18

57. Describe the problems with Mayella's testimony.

Chapter 19

58. What major reason suggested that Tom Robinson was innocent?

Chapter 20

59. What did Atticus say about Thomas Jefferson's "all men are created equal"?

Chapter 21

60. It took the jury a long time deciding on the verdict. Why is that important to this trial?

Chapter 22

61. Who else in town help Tom Robinson with his trial? How?

Chapter 23

62. What did Atticus try to explain to Jem about Bob Ewell?

63. What did Atticus say about white men cheating black men?

64. What family voted for Tom Robinson on the jury and why?

Chapter 24

65. Mrs. Merriweather spoke about 'good but misguided people' in town. To whom was she referring?

66. Why did Atticus need Calpurnia?

Chapter 25

67. Why was Tom's death 'typical' to Maycomb folk?

Chapter 26

68. What change do you notice when Scout looks back on past events?

69. Why is Scout upset that her teacher is upset about Hitler?

Chapter 27

70. What problems did Bob Ewell's cause?

71. What happened to Aunt Alexandra as the children were getting ready to go to the Halloween Pageant?

Chapter 28

72. What happened to the children on the way home?

Chapter 29

73. What did Mr. Tate mean when he said Bob Ewell "had guts enough...?"

74. How did Scout know the man was Boo Radley?

Chapter 30

75. Why did Atticus disagree with Mr. Tate's explanation of what happened?

76. Exactly 'how' did Bob Ewell die and by what method?

Chapter 31

77. What exactly did Scout 'see' from the porch of the Radley house?