To Kill A Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

***Student Study Guide***



**Themes:**

**Theme:**

* **racism/prejudice**
* **preconceived notions (stereotypes)**
* **treatment of others due to ignorance**
* **justice/injustice (the Court System)**
* **empathy/compassion**
* **parent/child relationships**
* **hypocrisy**
* **trials (“personal trials”)**
* **courage**
* **coming of age/loss of innocence**
* **education**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**To Kill A Mockingbird Characters**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jean Louise Finch):** The narrator (and main character of the book) who begins her story from the age of nearly six. A rebellious tomboy, Scout has a fierce disposition toward any who challenge her, but at heart she believes in the goodness in people and reacts to the terrible events of the book without losing hope.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremy Finch):** Scout's older brother, who is nearly ten at the beginning of the story. Jem is quieter and more reserved than his sister, and has very high standards and expectations for people. When these expectations are not met, he has a difficult time resolving his feelings.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Charles Baker Harris):** A friend of the Finch children, a little older than Scout, who has an active imagination and a sense for adventure. He initiates the first expeditions toward the Radley house, and is Scout's best friend. His family life is less than ideal, and he tends to resort to escapism when confronted with difficult situations.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The father of Scout and Jem, Atticus is a lawyer and an extremely morally upright man who strives to deal with everyone in the greatest fairness. Atticus has an inclination to be a little overly optimistic sometimes, but his unshakable hope and his self-created role as the town do-gooder sustain him. His wife died when Scout was a baby.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A recluse who never emerges from his house. As a young boy, he was in trouble with the police, and his strictly religious, also reclusive parents kept him inside. One day he stabbed his father with scissors, and has never been heard of since. The town has created a myth around him of monstrous proportions. He lives with his brother throughout much of the book.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A black man who stands falsely accused of raping Mayella Ewell. Atticus agrees to take up his case, even though he knows it is probably a hopeless one, if only to show the white community its own moral degeneracy.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A black woman who works as the Finches' cook and housekeeper. She is one of the many motherly figures in Scout's life. She can negotiate between the very separate black and white worlds of Maycomb.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Atticus's sister, who has strict, traditional ideas of how society works and the role for a Southern woman within it, which she tries to enforce upon Scout. She is concerned with raising Atticus's children "properly," and thus shows up during the summer of Tom's trial to stay with them.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A kind, cheerful, and witty neighbor to the Finches and a trusted friend of Scout's, who also upholds a strong moral code and helps the children gain perspective on the events surrounding the trial. She also loves gardening.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** An evil, ignorant man who belongs to the lowest substratum of Maycomb society, living with his nine motherless children in a shack near the town dump. Evidence from the trial suggests that he caught his daughter kissing Tom and proceeded to beat her. He drinks heavily and spends his relief checks on whiskey rather than food for his family.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The oldest of the many Ewell children, at nineteen. She lives a miserable and lonely existence, despised by whites and prohibited from befriending blacks. However, she breaks the social taboo by trying to seduce Tom, then reacts with cowardice by accusing him of rape and perjuring against him in court.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Maycomb County's trusty sheriff, who is on the whole an honest and upstanding man.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The reverend for the all-black congregation, First Purchase African M.E. church, where Scout and Jem visit one day with Calpurnia.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The judge for Tom's trial; a good, sensible judge with a sense of humor.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The solicitor (lawyer) for the Ewells in Tom Robinson's case.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A mean, sick, very old woman who lives near the Finches. Her heroic attempt to conquer her morphine addiction wins her Atticus's highest praises.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A poor farmer who is among the "Sarum bunch," a crowd which assembles near the town jail the night before Tom's trial in order to start a lynching. He is deeply moved by Scout's words, however, and respects the Finches greatly afterwards.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jr.):** Son of the other Walter, who attends first grade with Scout.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A white man who chose to marry a black woman and have "mixed" children, and who pretends to be a drunk so that the townspeople will have a way to explain his behavior.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Wife of Tom.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Atticus's brother, a doctor of whom the children are very fond.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** one of Aunt Alexandra’s grandchildren, who spends Christmas with the Finches and annoys Scout by being both boring and cruel



# *To Kill A Mockingbird* Questions

Every time we complete a chapter, you are responsible for answering the questions that follow. The teacher may randomly pick these up at any time for a grade, so keeping up with these is important.

**Part 1:**

**Chapter 1**

* + 1. Describe the town of Maycomb.
    2. Describe Boo Radley.
    3. What is unusual about the Radley house?

**Chapter 2**

* + 1. Describe Scout’s first day at school, including how she got in trouble with the teacher.
    2. How did Scout learn to read and write?
    3. Does the new teacher understand the children? Explain why or why not.

**Chapter 3**

* + 1. What happens that afternoon in school that upsets the teacher?
    2. Why does Scout want to quit school?
    3. What does Atticus tell Scout to do to understand people?

**Chapters 4 & 5**

* + 1. What do the children find in the Radley tree?
    2. Why is Scout fairly sure that Boo is still alive?
    3. Describe Miss Maudie.
    4. Describe the incident involving the children’s plan to stick a note through the shutter to Boo.

**Chapter 6**

* + 1. Describe the children’s plan to go to the Radley house. Include the item that Jem loses and Dill’s explanation for that.
    2. After the incident, Jem’s real desire is not just to recover his pants but to keep on good terms with Atticus. What does this tell you about Jem’s relationship with his father?

**Chapter 7**

* + 1. How old are the children now?
    2. What do they find in the knothole?
    3. What happened when they tried to leave a thank you note? Why does Jem cry?

**Chapter 8**

* + 1. What unusual thing happened in Maycomb that winter, and how did Mr. Avery explain it?
    2. What happens to Miss Maudie’s house?
    3. Where did the blanket that Scout finds around her shoulders come from?

**Chapter 9**

* + 1. Discuss the Tom Robinson case. Why is Atticus defending this man?

* + 1. Describe cousin Francis.
    2. Why does Scout get in a fight with Francis?
    3. What valuable lesson does Uncle Jack learn about children?

**Chapter 10**

* + 1. What does Atticus say about mockingbirds? Explain.
    2. What does Atticus do that makes him a hero in the eyes of his children?
    3. Why had Atticus given up shooting?
    4. Describe Calpurnia.

**Chapter 11**

* + 1. Describe Mrs. Dubose.
    2. Describe the incident with Mrs. Dubose’s camellias. Include Jem’s punishment.
    3. What does Atticus tell Jem about Mrs. Dubose after her death?

**Part 2:**

**Chapter 12**

1. Describe Cal’s church.

1. Who are the only ones that can read?

**Chapter 13**

1. Describe Aunt Alexandra.
2. Why has Aunt Alexandra come to Maycomb?

**Chapter 14**

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra want Calpurnia sent away?
2. What does Scout find in her bedroom when she is sent to bed?
3. What does Scout mean when she says, “Jem broke the remaining code of our childhood.”?
4. Contrast Scout’s home life with Dill’s.

**Chapter 15**

1. What does it mean in Maycomb when grown men stand outside in the front yard instead of coming into the house?
2. What side does Aunt Alexandra take concerning the trial?
3. What is Atticus worried about when he is sitting in front of the jail?
4. Give two of Atticus’ sayings that Scout considers important.

1. Do you think Atticus would have been in real danger without the intervention of Scout? Explain.
2. What does this chapter show about the relationship between Scout and her father?
3. On which side are Heck Tate, the sheriff, and Mr. Underwood – the publisher?

**Chapter 16**

1. What does Atticus say about a mob?
2. Is Miss Maudie the kind of person who would go to trial just out of curiosity?
3. What is peculiar about Mr. Dolphus Raymond?
4. What does this make Scout wonder about?
5. What happens to Scout and Jem as a result of the crowding of the courthouse?

**Chapter 17**

1. What position does Heck Tate hold in Maycomb?
2. In a few words, what is Heck Tate’s testimony?
3. What kind of people are the Ewells?
4. What is Mr. Ewell’s testimony?
5. What is Atticus trying to show during his questioning of Ewell?

**Chapter 18**

1. What impression does Atticus bring out from Mayella Ewell’s testimony about her home and family life?
2. What is the essence of Mayella’s testimony?
3. What is peculiar about Tom, which would lead one to believe that he could not have grabbed the girl and beaten and raped her?
4. What points does Atticus try to establish through Mayella’s testimony or lack of testimony?
5. Why does Mayella object to Atticus calling her “Ma’am” and “Miss Mayella”?
6. What do you think is the purpose of Dill to the story?

**Chapter 19**

1. How was Tom Robinson acquainted with Mayella?
2. Did she pay him?
3. Why did he refuse the money?
4. What is the true story of the “rape”?
5. What kind of man is Tom Robinson?
6. What is the fatal mistake that Tom makes in his testimony and in his life?
7. What is it that makes Dill feel sick?

**Chapter 20**

1. Whom do the children meet outside of the courtroom after Dill feels sick?
2. Why does Mr. Raymond drink Coke from a paper bag?
3. Why does he want people to think he is a drunk?
4. Why does he let the children in on his secret?
5. In his speech to the jury, Atticus says he feels pity for the chief witness. Who is the chief witness?

**Chapter 21**

1. Why does Calpurnia come into the courtroom?
2. How does Scout know the verdict as soon as she sees the jury coming?
3. Why do all the African Americans stand up as Atticus leaves the courtroom?

**Chapter 22**

1. Why does Jem cry as the children leave the court?
2. What characteristic phrase does Atticus use the next morning?
3. What kind of clown does Dill decide to be? Explain his reasoning.

**Chapter 23**

1. What happens that worries the children very much?
2. Does Atticus feel he is really in danger from Ewell?
3. Does Atticus believe in the jury system?
4. Does Atticus believe in capital punishment?
5. What man on the jury took the longest to be convinced of Tom’s verdict?
6. Will Aunt Alexandra allow Scout to have Walter Cunningham home for dinner another time?
7. What does Jem believe that “background” is?
8. What does Jem say in this chapter about understanding Boo Radley?

**Chapter 24**

1. Why does Scout attend her aunt’s “tea party” meeting?
2. What is the purpose of this chapter?
3. What news is received of Tom Robinson?
4. Why was Tom trying to escape?
5. What does Scout learn about being a lady?

**Chapter 25**

1. What time of year is it now?
2. Who went with Atticus and Calpurnia when they went to tell Helen Robinson of her husband’s death?
3. Why is it that Mr. Underwood can say whatever he wants to in his newspaper?
4. Can you say at this point why the book is titled as it is?
5. What worry keeps cropping up for the children?

**Chapter 26**

1. How old are the children by now?
2. What does Scout believe about Boo Radley?
3. Did the people of Maycomb discuss the Robinson case with the children?
4. What confuses Scout about what her teacher says about not persecuting?

**Chapter 27**

1. Why is Bob Ewell still causing trouble for everybody connected with the case?
2. What is to be different about Halloween this year in Maycomb?
3. What is Scout’s part in the Halloween pageant?
4. What is peculiar about her costume?
5. What does Scout mean when she says, “Thus began our longest journey together”?

**Chapter 28**

1. What first fright do Scout and Jem receive when they are on their way to school?
2. Why do the children wait backstage until the audience has left the school?
3. Why does Scout wear her costume home?
4. What happens in the dark?
5. Who attacked the children in the woods?
6. What happened to him?

**Chapter 29**

1. **What** saved Scout from being stabbed?
2. **Who** is the man in the corner who saved the children and stabbed Bob Ewell?
3. Why is it logical that he would have been the one to save the children?

**Chapter 30**

1. What fantasy of Scout’s comes true?
2. Who does Atticus think stabbed Ewell?
3. Who does Sheriff Tate think killed Ewell?
4. Why do the two men, Tate and Atticus, tacitly agree to say that the stabbing had been accidental?

**Chapter 31**

1. Why does Scout say, “I would lead him through our house, but I would never lead him home”?
2. What does Scout do on the Radley porch after Boo goes in?
3. What are the themes of the novel?
4. Who symbolizes the mockingbird?
5. Why?