

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

English I Pre-AP

Summer Reading Assignment

As always you are encouraged to research the background of the novel and the time period as a way to help you understand the novel more. IT IS NOT MANDATORY, But, we highly recommend using the Internet and other resources to familiarize yourself with the time period surrounding the novel. The following areas are good topics to research:

1. Alabama in the 1920s-1930s
2. Prejudice against African Americans in the south during the same time period.
3. World events at the time: Hitler's rise to power in WWII and his persecution of the Jews.

Directions: As you read To Kill a Mockingbird, answer the following questions on your own notebook paper or type them on a computer following these rules:

1. Write in blue or black ink only.
2. Write/ type in complete sentences.
3. Number your response.
4. Begin each answer by rephrasing the questions into the first line of your response so that your teacher knows which question is being answered.

Chapter 1

1. Where is the story set?
2. Who are the Radleys, and what is the townspeople's opinion of them?
3. What fairytale are made up about Boo Radley?
4. How is Scout different from most southern girls?

Chapter 3

5. How are the Ewell's described on page 30?
6. "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view" (30). How do you feel about this quote (which happens to be a major theme in this novel)?
7. Describe Scout's first day of school and her attitude towards school.

Chapter 5

8. How would you describe Miss Maudie?

Chapter 6

9. What was foreshadowed (a hint that something would happen) when Scout said, "You've got us in a box, Jem. We can't get out of here so easy"? (52)

Chapter 7

10. Who mended Jem's pants, and why so you think he/she did so?

Chapter 9

11. Where do you think Francis gets his prejudiced point of view?
12. What new understanding does Uncle Jack come to about children because of his talk his with Scout and then Atticus?

Chapter 10

13. Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?

Chapter 11

14. Respond to the following quote: "It's when you know you are licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what." (112)
15. Why does Atticus think Mrs. Dubose was "the bravest person [he] ever knew"? (112)

Part 2

Chapter 12

16. What is your reaction to the scene with Lula in front of the church?
17. Compare and contrast the Black community in Maycomb with the white community in Maycomb.

Chapter 13

18. In Aunt Alexandra's opinion, what qualifies a person to be "fine folks"? (130)

Chapter 14

19. What type of home life do you think Dill really has?

Chapter 15

20. Describe the group of men that comes to see Atticus at his house. Compare it to the mob at the jail. What are the differences between the two gangs of men?
21. Who broke up the mob at the jail and how?

Chapter 17

22. According to the Sheriff Tate, where was the bruising on Mayella?
23. Describe the Ewell family.
24. Who do you think planted the one bright spot, the "brilliant red geraniums" and why?
25. What is so important of the fact that Bob Ewell is left-handed?

Chapter 18

26. What things did you learn from Mayella's testimony?
27. Why is it an important fact that Tom's left hand can't be used?

Chapter 19

28. Describe Tom Robinson.
29. Compare the way Atticus treats Tom on the stand to the way Mr. Gilmer questions him.
30. What was Tom's tragic mistake in his testimony, and why was this a mistake?
31. Sift through all the testimonies; describe what you think really happened to Mayella.
32. All throughout the story, Dill seems to have an understanding of and dislike for prejudice that Scout never grasps. Where do you think he learned this?

Chapter 20

33. Do you feel Atticus delivered a good closing argument? Why or why not?

Chapter 21

34. What are Jem's and Scout's reactions to the verdict? Why?

Chapter 22

35. Bob Ewell spit in Atticus's face and "told him he'd get him if it took the rest of his life" (229). What does this quote foreshadow will happen later?

Chapter 23

36. How do you feel about Mr. Walter Cunningham now that you know he was on the jury? (Remember he was the leader of the jail mob, too, but seems to have changed his mind once he was on the jury).

Chapter 24

37. Explain why Mrs. Grace Merriweather is a hypocrite.

38. What lesson(s) do you feel Scout learned in this chapter about what it is to be a lady?

Chapter 25

39. "... but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case. Tom was a dead man the minute Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and screamed" (241). What does this quote mean? Do you think this type of prejudice still exists today and where?

Chapter 26

40. What similarities do you notice between the persecution of Jews and Blacks?

Chapter 27

41. What are the three incidents that occur after things have settled down in Maycomb?

Chapter 28

42. Who attacked Jem and Scout?

Chapter 29

43. Who rescued Jem and Scout?

44. Describe Boo Radley as Scout sees him at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 30

45. Who does Atticus think killed Bob Ewell?

46. Who really killed Bob Ewell?

47. Why does Sheriff Tate decide not to tell the town the truth about Bob Ewell's death?

Chapter 31

48. The book ends with the sentiment that most people are decent and nice if you take the time to get to know them. How does this moral/lesson fit with the story?

Overall Questions

49. Once again, why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?

50. What characters in the novel were "mockingbirds" and why?