

Chapter 18

After reading the chapter carefully, answer the following questions. You will need to go back through the text to find the answers.

1. At the beginning of the chapter Scout says Mayella initially looked what? But then became?
2. Why do you think she is depicted like this?
3. What do you think Scout means when she describes Mayella's confidence as, 'there was something stealthy about hers, like a steady eyed cat with a twitchy ear'?
4. Describe Mayella and her life using her testimony to Mr Gilmer and Atticus.
5. When Atticus asks Mayella if her father ever hits her how does Lee put doubt in the reader's mind that Mayella tells the truth?
6. When Atticus asks Mayella if Tom Robinson beat her around the face why do you think, 'Mayella was silent. She seemed to be trying to get something clear to herself'?
7. How does Atticus reveal that it was unlikely Tom Robinson could have attacked Mayella as described by her and her father?
8. What does Atticus suggest happened that day?
9. In what way had Atticus, 'hit Mayella hard'?
10. Why do you think Lee includes the information from Scout, recalled from a conversation with Atticus, that Judge Taylor was a 'good judge'?

Chapter 19

1. Using the information from Scout and his testimony to Atticus, describe Tom Robinson and his life and lifestyle.
2. Why do you think Scout comments, as she recalls, 'As Tom Robinson gave his testimony, it came to me that Mayella Ewell must have been the loneliest person in the world. She was even lonelier than Boo Radley, who had not been out of the house in twenty-five years'?
3. What account does Tom Robinson give of what happened on 21st November?
4. What predicament does Scout realise, later, Tom Robinson had on 21st November when he was trying to leave the Ewells' house?
5. Why does Scout recall that when Tom Robinson says he felt sorry for Mayella, 'Below us, nobody liked Tom Robinson's answer'?
6. What is it that makes Dill cry in the courtroom? How does Scout try to explain the situation to him? Dill says in reply, 'That's not what I mean,'; what do you think he is trying to say?