

Chapter 20

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

1. What is the truth of Mr Dolphus Raymond's secret and why does he ask the children not to tell on him?
2. Scout is horrified that her father removes his jacket, unbuttons his collar and loosens his tie; why do you think he does this?
3. Summarise the reasons Atticus gives for Mayella and her father lying to the court about what happened.
4. Look through Atticus's speech and pick out the ways in which it aims to persuade the jury that Tom Robinson is innocent. Which rhetorical devices does Atticus use and to what effect?
5. Why do you think Harper Lee includes the line that Atticus mutters to himself, 'In the name of God, believe him,'?

Chapter 21

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

1. How do we know that Atticus is under as much pressure as Jem that the jury will acquit Tom Robinson?
2. On the way home for dinner, Scout reports with glee that Calpurnia berates Jem for allowing Scout and Dill to stay at the trial; what does this tell us about Scout and her understanding of what she has just witnessed?
3. Scout says that, apart from the officers of the court, she, 'had never seen a packed courtroom so still.' Why does Harper Lee draw attention to the atmosphere?
4. When Atticus leaves the courtroom, Scout reports, 'I looked around. They were all standing. All around us and in the balcony on the opposite wall, the Negroes were getting to their feet. Reverend Sykes's voice was as distant as Judge Taylor's: "Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passin'.'" Why do you think everyone is standing for Atticus? Do you get the impression this usually happens? From her comments, do you think Scout understands why people are standing?
5. What are your impressions of Atticus at this point in the novel?