

Chapter 22

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 Atticus referring to when he tells Aunt Alexandra, 'It's just as much Maycomb County as missionary teas'? What does he mean?
2. Look back through the novel. How has Lee established that giving a gift of food for a service is acceptable practice in Maycomb County? What does the abundance and type of food in this instance tell us?
3. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says, 'I simply want to tell you that there are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us. Your father's one of them'?
4. Who and what is Miss Maudie referring to when she tells the children that Atticus was chosen to defend Tom Robinson by someone and for a reason?
5. What shocking event occurs at the end of the chapter?
6. Why might Bob Ewell's threat seem particularly menacing?

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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 reasons does Atticus give Jem for Bob Ewell spitting at him?
2. What do you think of Aunt Alexandra's comment that Bob Ewell may do, 'something furtive' to Atticus?
3. When Atticus is speaking to Jem and Scout about juries and the justice system he becomes angry; what is it that angers him and why do you think it does?
4. Why do you think Harper Lee includes the long conversation about juries, the justice system and the exclusion of women in the novel? Does it 'fit' with what we already know about Atticus and Jem?
5. Atticus explains that progress has been made because the jury took a while to reach their verdict. Who was it who originally found Tom Robinson innocent? Why is this so surprising? What do you think Harper Lee is trying to show us by including this detail?
6. Scout and Jem have a long conversation about family, friendships and traditions after Scout is told by Aunt Alexandra that she will not invite Walter Cunningham to their house. At the very close of the chapter Jem says, 'Scout, I think I'm beginning to understand something. I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time ... it's because he *wants* to stay inside.' What does he mean and why has Lee included this detail here?