

Chapter 24

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

1. At the opening of the chapter Scout explains, 'I admired the ease and grace with which she [Calpurnia] handled heavy loads of dainty things. So did Aunt Alexandra, I guess, because she had let Calpurnia serve today.' Do you agree that this is Aunt Alexandra's motivation? If not, what do you believe is the real reason?
2. How do you imagine Scout felt about the conversation she recalls with Miss Stephanie?
3. There is some confusion between Scout and Mrs Merriweather about who is being discussed; why does Scout think it's Mayella Ewell and what does Harper Lee show us by the fact it's actually Tom Robinson's wife, Helen?
4. What can be seen as ironic about Mrs Merriweather's comments to Mrs Farrow that she told her African-American cook, Sophy, 'You simply aren't being a Christian today. Jesus Christ never went around grumbling and complaining'?
5. What and/or who is Miss Maudie referring to when she says, 'His food doesn't stick going down, does it?' in response to Mrs Merriweather and Mrs Farrow's conversation?
6. Why do you think that in response to Miss Maudie's comment, 'She [Aunt Alexandra] gave Miss Maudie a look of pure gratitude'?
7. What does it show the reader that Aunt Alexandra is visibly upset by the news of Tom Robinson's death?
8. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says to Aunt Alexandra, 'Whether Maycomb knows it or not, we're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man. We trust him to do right. It's that simple'?

Chapter 25

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

1. Summarise Dill's account to Scout of telling Tom Robinson's wife, Helen, that her husband was dead.
2. Re-read Scout's remarks about the news of Tom's death, starting with, 'Maycomb was interested by the news of Tom's death for perhaps two days,' and then explain what you think this shows about Scout's opinion of people in the town. Why does she write 'typical' with a capital 'T'?
3. Earlier in the novel we learned that Mr Underwood is racist; why, then, as Scout reports, did he write an editorial about Tom's death in which he, 'was at his most bitter'?
4. What does Scout mean when she states, 'Atticus had used every tool available to free men to free Tom Robinson, but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case. Tom was a dad man the minute Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and accused'?