

Chapter 9

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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. This is the first time that we, the readers, hear about Atticus defending Tom Robinson; Scout reports that Cecil Jacobs has taunted her at school about it. What does she mean when she tells Atticus, 'He made it sound like you were runnin' a racket'? What does this immediately tell us as readers?
2. Atticus tells Scout that he will not win the case. Why does he give his reason as, '... because we were licked a hundred years before we started'?
3. Why do you think Harper Lee includes the small detail about Cousin Ike Finch, 'Maycomb County's sole surviving Confederate veteran'?
4. From Scout's description in this chapter, what is your impression of Aunt Alexandra?
5. Describe Finch's Landing and the Finch house. Why do you think Harper Lee describes both in such detail? What do you think she is trying to show us about the Finch history?
6. Why do you think Lee has Francis taunt Scout for Scout being blamed for it by Uncle Jack?
7. What is your understanding of the conversation Atticus and Uncle Jack have about Scout?
8. Scout says at the end of the chapter, '... it was not until many years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said.' Why do you think Atticus wanted Scout to hear the conversation?

Chapter 10

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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. List Scout's criticisms of Atticus at the beginning of this chapter. What sort of impression do you get of both characters from what she says?
2. What does Atticus mean when he says to the children, 'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird'? Why do you think this was chosen for the title of the novel?
3. What do we learn about Atticus's character from the rest of this chapter?
4. What is Jem's response to Atticus's actions and why do you think he reacts this way?
5. Do you think Scout understands Jem's behaviour at this point in the novel?