

To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee

Revision questions

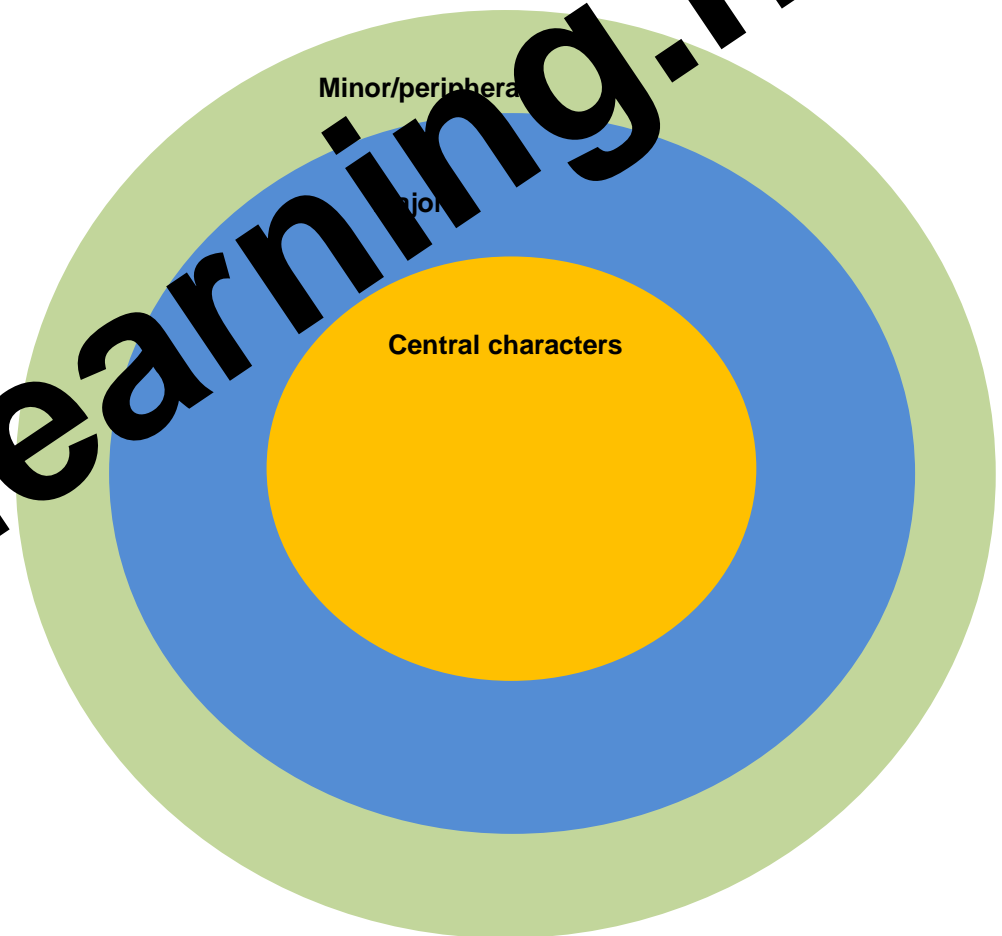
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Chapter 1

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

1. What does Scout tell us about her family and their history?
2. Why do you think this information is in the first chapter?
3. For what reason has Harper Lee made her narrator motherless?
4. At what point in the chapter do we learn the age of Scout when these events took place and why do you think this is left until this point?
5. What do we learn about the town of Maycomb?
6. What impression do you get of the place from Scout's description?
7. What else do we learn about Scout from this first chapter?
8. Which other characters do we read about and what information do we learn?

Draw out a diagram like the one below and then write out the character names in the appropriate areas of the chart. Compare your decisions with others in your class. Be prepared to explain your choices and defend your decisions. How many central characters do you have? Why? How do you differentiate between a central and a major character? Could minor characters be removed from the novel altogether? If not, why not?



A list of the characters

Scout (Jean Louise) Finch	Miss Caroline Fisher
Jem (Jeremy) Finch	Uncle Jack Finch
Atticus Finch	Francis Hancock
Arthur (Boo) Radley	Uncle Jimmy Hancock
Nathan Radley	Cecil Jacobs
Mr Radley	Judge John Taylor
Mrs Radley	Horace Gilmer
Miss Maudie Atkinson	Dr Reynolds
Aunt Alexandra Finch Hancock	Reverend Sykes
Dill (Charles Baker) Harris	Zeebo
Miss Stephanie Crawford	Rachel Haverford
Mrs Dubose	Jessie
Calpurnia	Lula
Heck Tate	Mrs Merriweather
Walter Cunningham	Tom (Thomas) Robinson
Mr Walter Cunningham	Helen Robinson
Bob Ewell	Link Deas
Mayella Ewell	Mr Braxton Underwood
Burr Ewell	Mr Dolphus Raymond

Chapter 2

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

1. Find the description of Miss Caroline Fisher, write it down, and explain what first impression this gives us of Scout's teacher.
2. Why do you think all the class is giggling like a bucketful of Catawba worms during the story about the cats? What does this suggest about Miss Fisher's understanding of her class?
3. What mistake does Miss Fisher make in trying to give Walter the quarter? Why do you think Scout gets in trouble for trying to explain the problem?
4. Why do you think Harper Lee includes this incident here?
5. How do you feel about Miss Caroline, and Scout, when Scout reports, 'I saw her sink down into her chair and bury her head in her arms. Had her conduct been more friendly towards me, I would have felt sorry for her. She was a pretty little thing.' Remember Scout is nearly 6 when this happens.
6. Overall, what is your impression of Miss Caroline Fisher at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 3

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

1. Why does Harper Lee tell of Calpurnia reprimanding Scout near the beginning of this chapter? What does this, and Atticus's response to Scout's complaint, show us?
2. Scout reports the incident between Burris Ewell and Miss Fisher in detail; why does the exchange become so heated and what does it hint at to the reader? You may need to re-visit this question when you have read more of the novel.
3. Atticus's famous comment, 'You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view –' is in this chapter; what do you think it means?
4. What do we learn about the Ewells from Burris Ewell and from Atticus in this chapter? What is your impression of them from the information given?
5. Why does the chapter end with Atticus reading out the newspaper report of the man who sat on a flagpole for no reason? Think about Jem and Scout's reaction to the news, what Jem and then Scout do next and the way in which Atticus deals with it.

Chapter 31

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

1. What does it tell us that Scout understands Arthur and his intentions so well even though he doesn't speak and she has never met him before?
2. What does Scout mean when she says, 'I would lead him through our house, but I would never lead him home.'? What does it show us about Scout's growing understanding of manners and the traditions of Maycomb county?
3. What does Scout realise when she stands on Arthur's front porch by the 'battered window, after he's gone inside'? To what extent does this explain his 'friendship' with the children?
4. Why does Harper Lee include the line from Scout, 'I felt very old but when I looked at the tip of my nose I could see fine misty beads, but looking cross-eyed made me dizzy so I quit,' when it seems so inconsequential to the events of the evening?
5. What is the reason Harper Lee has Scout, half-asleep, summarizing the story of *The Grey Ghost* to Atticus?
6. The final words in the novel are, 'He turned out the light and went into Jem's room. He would be there all night, and he would be there when Jem waked up in the morning.' Why do you think the novel finishes in this way and how effective do you find them as final words?

Chapter 30

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 beginning of this chapter we learn more about various characters' interactions with Arthur Radley; what are they and what does it show us about the characters?
2. When the men are out on the porch Scout refers to a, 'curious contest, the nature of which eluded me, was developing between my father and the sheriff.' What is Scout referring to here?
3. Why is Atticus so keen to make Heck Tate see that Jem killed Bob Ewell?
4. Mr Tate is adamant that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife even though this is not the truth; why is this the case?
5. How do we know that Scout does understand the meaning for the conversation on the porch?
6. What does Atticus mean when he says to Arthur Radley, 'Thank you for my children, Arthur,'?

Chapter 4

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

1. Looking back, what does Scout think of her description? How is her description of it made funny by Lee?
2. What does Scout find in the oak tree and what does Jem make her do with it? Why does he do this and why does Scout obey?
3. What do the children find next in the oak tree? Why do they wonder what they should do about their discovery?
4. What does Dill tell the others when he arrives? How does Harper Lee imply that he is making it up?
5. How does Scout end up in the Radleys' front yard?
6. When the children play the game of 'Boo Radley' what do they include in the story they make up? What does this show us about their maturity?
7. How do we know Atticus is angry with the children for their game and why do you think he is?
8. What frightens Scout so much that she can not even tell Jem?

Chapter 5

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

1. Scout tells us that Dill asked her to marry him and then a few sentences later, 'I beat him up twice but it did no good.' What do these actions imply to us about the characters?
2. What do we learn about Miss Maudie in this chapter?
3. Why does Harper Lee have Scout talk to Miss Maudie about Arthur Radley?
4. What do we learn about Atticus from Miss Maudie? What do you think she means when she says, 'Atticus Finch is the same in his house as he is on the public streets.'?
5. When Scout and Dill are arguing Dill tells some more stories about his daddy. What are they and what others does Scout report to the reader? Why do you think Harper Lee has made Dill's character like this?
6. Why might it be important for the story that Atticus catches Jem trying to deliver a note to Boo Radley?

Chapter 29

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

1. Why does Scout draw attention to Scout's appearance at the opening of this chapter?
2. Why do you think Harper Lee writes aloud if any of the neighbours heard the children calling out when they thought it was Cecil Jacobs following them?
3. What does Heck Tate mean when he refers to Bob Ewell as, '... means he's low-down skunk with enough liquor in him to make me brave enough to kill children. He'd never have met you face to face.'?
4. Why does Lee have Scout repeat what happened to the two children when we, as readers, already know?
5. Using Scout's remarks, describe Arthur 'Boo' Radley.
6. Scout isn't introduced to Arthur so how does she know it's him?

Chapter 28

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

1. Why does Harper Lee write in such detail about the children's journey to the school?
2. Scout summarises Mrs Merriweather's historical outline of Maycomb; why does Lee include this information?
3. Why do you think Harper Lee has Judge Taylor, rather than any other character, finding Scout's mistake so funny?
4. How does Lee make the the walk home menacing, before the children are attacked?
5. What does Atticus's conversation with Heck Tate on the telephone tell us about Atticus?
6. As Aunt Alexandra helps Scout remove the ham costume, she repeats a word three times three times; what is it and what does it show us about her changing relationship with Scout?
7. Why do you think Scout gives so little detail to the description of the man who carried Jem home?
8. How does Harper Lee build tension from the moment Heck Tate enters the house?

Chapter 6

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

1. What reason does Scout give for Jem and Dill waiting for tonight to try to get a look at Arthur Radley?
2. Find, re-read, and then either draw a labelled diagram of the Radley house or write about it in your own words. What sort of impression do you get of it from Lee's description?
3. What reason does Dill give for Jem not wearing any pants (trousers)?
4. Why is the phrase, 'I admired my brother. Matches were dangerous, but cards were fatal' ironic?
5. Jem decides to return later in the night to the Radley yard for his pants despite Scout's protestations that a, 'lickin' hurts but it doesn't last.' She thinks Jem should accept punishment from Atticus rather than risk going to the Radleys' house again. What do you think she means when she writes, 'It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company. Sometimes I did not understand him, but my periods of bewilderment were short-lived. This was beyond me.'
6. What do you think are Jem's reasons for risking Radley's shotgun rather than his father's anger?

Chapter 7

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

1. What does Jem tell Scout about the night he went back to the Radleys' yard?
2. How do you think Jem feels about what happened?
3. In this chapter, how does Harper Lee show us that the children are still young?
4. List the items the children find in the oak tree. Is there anything significant about the objects they find or the order in which they find them?
5. What reason does Mr Radley give for filling in the knot hole with cement?
6. Why do you think Jem cries when the knot hole is filled in?

Chapter 27

1. What does Scout report happens to Bob Ewell? Why do you think he feels so aggrieved?
2. Harper Lee includes what sounds like a minor incident of an intruder at Judge Taylor's house; why do you think she does this?
3. What does the story about Jem, Robinson and the Ewells tell us about Link Deas?
4. What reasons does Atticus give Aunt Alexandra for Bob Ewell continuing to harbour a grudge and for breaking into Judge Taylor's house?
5. Why does Harper Lee have Scout report a summary of what she hears at the missionary society teas, from, 'I learned more about the poor Mrunas' social life from listening to Mrs Merriweather,' to, 'J.Grimes Everett was doing his utmost to change this state of affairs, and desperately needed our prayers.'?
6. Why do all the children in Maycomb put their shoes on after Misses Tutti and Fruitti's furniture is discovered in the cellar?
7. From Scout's description of the intended pageant, what sort of impression do we get of Mrs Merriweather?
8. Harper Lee has to make Atticus and Aunt Alexandra stay at home in order for her plot to work, but in what ways might their decision to miss the pageant affect the reader's opinion of them?

Chapter 26

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

1. Summarise Scout's feelings about the Radley place, their attempts to see Arthur Radley and how she imagines the meeting between the two of them to go.
2. Why do you think Harper Lee re-introduces the idea of Arthur Radley again here before returning to the subject of Tom Robinson?
3. What does Scout mean when she refers to, '... the events of the summer hung over us like smoke in a closed room'?
4. When reporting the feelings of people in Maycomb Scout explains, 'There was one odd thing, though, that I never understood: in spite of Atticus's shortcomings as a parent, people were content to re-elect him to the state legislature that year, as usual, without opposition.' Why does Harper Lee include this information and what does it tell us about the residents of the town?
5. What is ironic about Miss Gates's comments about Hitler persecuting the Jews? Why is Scout so confused by her remarks?
6. Why do you think Jem reacts as he does to Scout's question?

Chapter 8

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

1. Why do you think Harper Lee writes so little about the death of Mrs Radley?
2. For what purpose does Lee give such a long description of the snow and the building of the snowman?
3. What is Scout's reaction to the fire at Miss Maudie's?
4. Why do you think Jem tells Scout more than once, 'It ain't time to worry yet'? Who else says this in the novel?
5. Who does Atticus think put the blanket around Scout? What is Jem's reaction to this information and why do you think he behaves this way?
6. In this chapter, Lee makes the antagonistic relationship between Miss Maudie and Miss Stephanie clear. How does she do this and for what purpose?

Chapter 9

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 still'? 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 and 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 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 us 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 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 save 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 screamed'?

Chapter 24

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 are not 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 foot 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 a little grateful'?
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 Mayella likes it or not, we're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man. We just let him do right. It's that simple'?

Chapter 10

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 tells 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 as 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?

Chapter 11

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

1. Describe Mrs Dubose, from Scout's description at the beginning of the chapter.
2. Why does Scout consider her father, 'the bravest man who ever lived,' for talking to Mrs Dubose?
3. Why do you think Jem is so upset at Mrs Dubose's outburst, as the children pass on their way to the shops?
4. How does Scout know Atticus is angry about the camellias before she sees him?
5. Summarise the meaning of Atticus's conversation with Scout whilst Jem is sent to Mrs Dubose to apologise, starting with, 'it's not time to worry yet ...' to 'The one thing that does abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.'
6. What has Jem agreed to do to apologise to Mrs Dubose?
7. Write a description of Mrs Dubose using the information Scout gives when they first visit.

Chapter 23

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 so?
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?

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 for 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?

Chapter 11 continued

8. Why do you think she is described in such detail?
9. What does Mrs Dubose send Jem to read before she dies?
10. Why do you think Lee initially rejects her? What does he do to it?
11. Explain why you think Mrs Dubose asked Jem to read to her and why she kept the alarm clock beside her bed.
12. What does Atticus mean when he says that Mrs Dubose was the bravest person he knew?
13. Why do you think Jem studies the camellia after Atticus's comments?
14. The novel is split into two parts: chapter 11 is the last chapter of part one; why do you think Lee has separated the novel in this way and why has chosen this as the final chapter of Part One?

Chapter 12

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

1. Find three quotations which show Scout is a young child. For each quotation PEE or PEA.
2. Describe the First Purchase church in detail and explain how Lee shows us that the African-Americans who worship there are poor.
3. What does Scout find surprising about the church service? You should be able to name at least two points.
4. What do we learn about Calpurnia's history and family background?
5. What does it tell us, as readers, about Scout and her family background that they only discover Calpurnia's history at this point?

Chapter 21

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 not as sure 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?

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?

Chapter 20

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 13

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

1. From information that Scout gives us, describe Aunt Alexandra and her personality.
2. Aunt Alexandra and Atticus give different reasons for her arrival; what are these reasons and what do you think Atticus means from his answer?
3. Why do you think Harper Lee depicts Aunt Alexandra as someone who, as described by Scout, was, '... of the opinion, obliquely expressed, that the Finches were no longer a family had been squatting on one patch of land the longer it was'? Look at what happens immediately after this information and the impact it has through the rest of the novel.
4. What does Scout mean when she reflects, 'Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me'?
5. During this chapter Aunt Alexandra shows Scout and Jem a purple-covered book which was written by Cousin Joshua. Jem's response begins, 'Is this the Cousin Joshua who was locked up for so long? ... Why, Atticus said he went round the bend at the University. Said he tried to shoot the president ...' Re-read this short episode and then compare what Atticus and Aunt Alexandra's opinions of this person are. Remember to consider the end of the chapter when Atticus refers again to Cousin Joshua. What do their differing opinions show us about them and their attitudes?
6. Atticus tries to talk to the children about the importance of being a Finch but then tells them to forget it and leaves the room. What do you think Scout means, when she explains at the end of the chapter, 'I know now what he was trying to do, but Atticus was only a man. It takes a woman to do that kind of work'?

Chapter 14

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 beginning of this chapter Scout tells us that her and Jem were subjected to veiled comments from strangers in town. From the way she describes these characters, how do you think she feels about the people and their comments?
2. Why do you think Atticus and Aunt Alexandra are arguing about Calpurnia and Scout's visit to the First Purchase church?
3. Scout gets angry with Jem when he tries to tell her what to do; why is this and what unites them again?
4. What is the first story that Dill tells about his time in Meridian and his journey to Maycomb? How do we know Scout and Jem don't believe him?
5. What does Scout mean when she writes to Jem, 'Then he rose and broke the remaining code of our childhood'? What does this show us about Scout, Jem and Dill?
6. Why do you think Harper Lee includes the long conversation that Scout and Dill have about Boo's parents, babies and, at the very end, Boo Radley?

Chapter 19

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

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 for him? Dill says in reply, 'That's not what I mean,'; what do you think he is trying to say?

Chapter 18

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 tail'?
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 her conversation with Atticus, that Judge Taylor was a 'good judge'?

Chapter 15

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

1. Why do the group of men come to the house and how does Harper Lee make their presence seem menacing?
2. Scout refers to Atticus' query, 'Do you really think so?' as his 'dangerous question'; what do you think she means by this?
3. Why is Atticus sitting outside the jail and why do the children go to see what he is doing in town?
4. When Lee describes the group of men who approach Atticus, before Scout joins them, how does she make them seem both frightening and ridiculous at the same time?
5. Why does Mr Cunningham initially pretend he does not know Scout? Why does she keep trying to talk to him in the face of his apparent lack of interest?
6. What is Mr Cunningham's eventual reaction to Scout's conversation?
7. Why do you think Harper Lee includes the detail of Dill offering to carry the chair for Atticus?
8. Do you think Scout understands what she has managed to do? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapter 16

1. Whilst the family is eating breakfast, 'Aunt Alexandra sipped coffee and radiated waves of disapproval.' Why is this?
2. Atticus says that Braxton Underwood 'despises negroes,' so why do you think he was prepared to defend Atticus and Tom Robinson the previous night?
3. Aunt Alexandra tells Atticus not to discuss certain matters in front of Calpurnia. What are they and why does she think they shouldn't be mentioned? What is Atticus's response? How does Harper Lee convey her own opinion to us through her characters?
4. Jem tells Dill all about the people who pass by them on their way to the court. Make a note of the details of these people and explain what they tell us about Maycomb and its inhabitants.
5. What does it tell us about Miss Maudie and Miss Stephanie that one is staying away from court and one is going but initially pretends she isn't?
6. Describe the scene that Scout, Jem and Dill find outside the courthouse. What do we learn about the lifestyles and lives of the black and white residents of the area from the description Scout provides?
7. Scout overhears the Ilders' Club talking about her father and learns that he is Tom Robinson's court appointed lawyer. She says, 'This was news, news that put a different light on things; Atticus had to, whether he wanted to or not. I thought it odd that he hadn't said anything to us about it – we could have used it any time in defending him and ourselves ... But did that explain the town's attitude? The court appointed Atticus to defend him. Atticus agreed to defend him. That's what they didn't like about it. It was confusing.' What does this show us about people in Maycomb, Atticus and Scout?

Chapter 17

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

1. Using Scout's information, describe Mr Heck Tate on the witness stand. Why do you think Scout comments, 'from that moment he ceased to terrify me,'?
2. Describe Bob Ewell and his home. What sort of impression do we get of him, his family, and his lifestyle?
3. When Bob Ewell gives his evidence he says something that makes the people in the courtroom complain loudly. Scout remembers, 'Mr Ewell was sitting smugly in the witness chair, surveying his handiwork.' What does she mean?
4. What reason does Bob Ewell give for not calling a doctor? Why do you think Atticus is so keen to press this point?
5. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name?
6. Bob Ewell becomes increasingly angry with Atticus; why do you think this is? Do you think Scout understands the reason? Give reasons for your decision.