

The first words

The following are the first words from each chapter of the novel. Try to re-order them and, as you do, think about: the way Lee tells the story; any similarities in the chapter opening; Scout's growing maturity; the changes in the relationship between Scout and other characters.

	Atticus was feeble: he was nearly fifty.
	'Mr Arthur, honey,' ...
	The weather was unusually warm for the last day of October.
	When we were small, ...
	My nagging got the better of Jem eventually, as I knew it would ...
	'Yes,' said our father, ...
	Jem stayed moody and silent for a week.
	The remainder of my school days were no more auspicious than the first.
	'You can just take that book, boy!'
	'Don't do that, Scout ...'
	Calpurnia wore her stiffest starched apron.
	Jem was twelve.
	Catching Walter Cunningham ...
	As much as we heard no more ... we heard plenty from the town.
	For reasons unfathomable ..., autumn turned to winter that year.

	Dill left us early in September ...
	'Jem,' I said, 'are those the Ewells ...'
	But someone was booming again.
	When he was nearly thirteen, ...
	'Come on round here, son,...'
	She stopped shyly at the railing ....
	It was Jem's turn to cry.
	Jem heard me.
	When Boo Radley shuffled to his feet ...
	Thomas Robinson reached around, ...
	After many telephone calls, ...
	Things did settle down, ... , as Atticus said they would.
	School started and we did our daily trips past the Radley Place.
	Aunt Alexandra got up ...
	'I wish Bob Ewell wouldn't chew tobacco,'
	'Put my bag in the front bedroom, Calpurnia,'

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