

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the (February) Daytime

Re-read chapter 10 in which Atticus shoots the dog, Tim Johnson, and then answer the questions below:

1. How does Scout feel about her father at the beginning of the chapter? Make a list of her criticisms and consider whether there are similarities in the talents she wishes he had.
2. Atticus says to Jem, 'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.' What explanation does Miss Maudie give for Atticus's words?
3. Why do you think the lines above were chosen as the title of the novel?
4. On page 96 (Heinemann New Windmills edition) Scout accuses to her father defending Tom Robinson and the gossip it generates at school. Why has Harper Lee included these few lines in this chapter?
5. What accomplishments of Atticus's does Miss Maudie report to Scout? What impression do we, as readers, get from the list and what impression do we get of Scout from her reaction?
6. Why is it surprising to the reader, as well as Scout and Jem, when Heck Tate hands the gun to Atticus to shoot the dog?
7. How does Jem react immediately after Atticus shoots Tim Johnson? Why do you think he behaves like this?
8. What do you think Miss Maudie means when she says Atticus is 'civilized in his heart'?
9. What does the difference in Scout and Jem's reaction to their father's marksmanship show us about them and their maturity?
10. Why, in your opinion, does Jem shout, "Atticus is a gentleman, just like me!"
11. In what way does the reader's opinion of Atticus change, if at all, through this chapter?
12. Why do you think Harper Lee includes this incident in the novel and at this point?