

TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD
By Harper Lee

Atticus said to Jem one day, "I'd rather you shoot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

To Kill a Mockingbird, published in 1960, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961. Set in the 1930's, Lawyer Atticus Finch, a widower, is raising his two children, Jem and his sister Scout, in the sleepy town of Maycomb, Alabama. While exploring the darkness of prejudice and racism, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a coming of age story that chronicles Scout's maturation through personal trauma. It was thought to be the only novel published by Harper Lee until a supposedly "lost" manuscript was found and published in July 2015. *Go Set a Watchman* tells of grown-up Scout's return to Maycomb. The book is thought to have been written before *To Kill a Mockingbird*. There are notable similarities between Harper Lee and Scout Finch. Like Scout, Harper Lee was raised in a small southern town in Alabama by her attorney father Amasa C. Lee (an unusual name that starts with the letter A). Her family had a distinguished ancestry, tracing back to the Confederate Civil War General Robert E. Lee. Born in 1926, Lee would have been about Scout's age in the 1930's. It is believed that the character Dill, was based on her childhood friend, Truman Capote.

Parental Warning: Swearing and derogatory racial slurs occur throughout the book. One of the characters is on trial for rape.

List of Characters

Jean Louise Finch (Scout) – Feisty, five-year-old girl. Younger child of Atticus Finch.

Jeremiah Atticus Finch (Jem) – Nine-year old brother of Scout.

Atticus Finch – A widower, father of Scout and Jem. Lawyer who defends Tom Robinson.

Charles Baker Harris (Dill) – Finch's summer friend and neighbor, a little older than Scout.

Calpurnia – Finch's cook and housekeeper who acts as a mother figure for Scout and Jem.

Boo Radley – Reclusive neighbor, rarely seen and thought to be insane.

Miss Maudie Atkinson – A kind neighbor of the Finch's who befriends Scout.

Tom Robinson – Black man accused of attacking a white woman. Defended by Atticus Finch.

Bob Ewell – Poor white man who is a drunk and a racist. Accuser of Tom Robinson.

Mayella Ewell – Lonely, abused daughter of Bob Ewell. Bears witness against Tom Robinson.

Aunt Alexandria – Atticus Finch's sister. She is deeply devoted to the family.

Heck Tate – Sheriff of Maycomb County.

Read Chapters 1-3

The story begins with an account of thirteen-year-old Jem's broken arm and then flashes back to chronicle the history leading up to that event.

1. Who is narrating the story? Is the narrator using a child's or an adult's voice?
2. What does Dill suggest they do when they start to get bored?
3. How does Jem describe Boo Radley? Do you think this is true?
4. In September, Dill returns to his hometown and Jem and Scout begin school. Is Jem "delighted" to take Scout to school?
5. When Miss Caroline, Scout's first grade teacher, learns that Scout can read, how does she respond?
6. Scout's explanation of Walter's refusal of money from Miss Caroline is, "He's a Cunningham." What does she mean by that?
7. Why does Miss Caroline bury her head in her arms at the end of Chapter 2?
8. Why hasn't Walter Cunningham passed first grade?
9. By Chapter 3, three families have been introduced – the Finches, the Cunninghams, and the Ewells. How would you rank each one in the social order of Maycomb?
10. What "trick" does Atticus teach Scout about getting along with people?
11. In what way does Harper Lee show that Atticus is not a typical parent?

Read Chapters 4-8

1. What is Scout's assessment of the educational system?
2. When school ends, Dill returns for the summer. While the children think up ways of entertaining themselves, Jem explains what Hot Steam is to Dill. Scout scornfully tells Dill not to believe him and then quotes Calpurnia using a shocking word that is extremely offensive today. Remember that in the 1930's this was very common in the South. Also note that Scout is quoting Calpurnia. Ask your parents and grandparents about racism when they were growing up. Discuss if they have ever experienced racism and/or ever witnessed any examples of it.
3. When Jem and Dill exclude Scout, she spends time with Miss Maudie. How does Miss Maudie's view of Boo Radley differ from the children's view?
4. Jem realizes that Atticus used the "oldest lawyer's trick on record" to trap him into admitting the game they had been playing. How does Atticus do this?
5. How does Dill explain the absence of Jem's pants? What reaction does this cause?
6. Why does Scout try to stop Jem from getting his pants back?
7. What evidences of racism are shown in this chapter?
8. Who has been leaving the gifts in the knothole?
9. Contrast Jem's and Scout's reactions to the cemented knothole.
10. What is another indicator that Boo Radley is not the crazed demon the children thought he was?
11. How does Miss Maudie view the loss of her house?

Research: *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in the time of the Great Depression. Research when the Depression took place and why. If possible, interview an elderly person who lived during the Depression.

Chapter 9 is a turning point in the novel. The preceding chapters have been about Scout's childhood and the Boo Radley question. Chapter 9 shifts attention to the trial of Tom Robinson.

Read Chapters 9-11

1. Once again, offensive name calling reveals more about the person using the term than the person at which it is directed. Atticus tells Scout not to use the hateful term because it is "common." What does that mean?
2. Why does Atticus say he has to represent Tom Robinson?
3. Why has Scout taking up swearing?
4. Although tomboy Scout rebels against Aunt Alexandra's strict views on the role of men and women, what indicates that she is also prejudiced?
5. Why are Scout and Jem disappointed in Atticus?
6. According to Miss Maudie, why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird? Discuss why this is the central metaphor of the book.
7. What changes the children's opinion about their father?
8. Why does Miss Maudie say, "People in their right minds never take pride in their talents?" Do you agree with her?
9. Why does Mrs. Dubose have Jem come read to her each day?
10. According to Atticus, what is real courage? What is your definition of real courage?

Writing Assignment: There are some strong, offensive words used in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Consider this old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Do you agree with this saying? Write a five-paragraph essay supporting your opinion.

Book two of *To Kill a Mockingbird* begins with Chapter 12. Jem and Scout are thrust into the more mature world of adults.

Read Chapters 12-16

1. Chapter 12 recounts the third summer of the novel. In what ways is this summer different for Scout?
2. Where does Calpurnia take them? Are they welcomed? What three things surprise the children?
3. How does the church service at First Purchase differ from the church Scout goes to?
4. The novel is told from Scout's point of view, which is white, middle-class. Chapter 12 is the first look the reader is given into the black community. What does it show us?
5. Why does Calpurnia talk differently when they go to church?
6. Atticus says Aunt Alexandria has come to stay with them because it is going to be a hot summer. What does he mean?
7. According to Aunt Alexandra, who are "Fine Folks?" Why does this confuse Scout?
8. In what ways does Jem show he is growing up in this chapter?
9. Why did Dill run away from home?
10. What are the men that come to Atticus's house concerned about?
11. Why does Atticus take a light with him when he leaves the house?
12. Why does Atticus have to face the mob alone?
13. How does Jem once again show that he is growing up?
14. What is the seating arrangement in the courthouse?

15. Why do people move so that Reverend Sykes and the children can sit down?

The next five chapters describing Tom Robinson's trial are the most dramatic in the novel.

Read Chapters 17-21

1. Robert E. Lee Ewell is called to the witness stand. What kind of man is he?
2. What is Atticus's point in asking both the Sheriff and Ewell if a doctor was called for Mayella?
3. Why does Atticus ask Ewell to sign his name?
4. What indications are there that Mayella is trying to better herself?
5. Why does Mayella get angry when Atticus calls her "Miss Mayella?"
6. What evidence does Atticus provide that shows that Tom Robinson could not have been the one who attacked Mayella? Do you think the evidence is strong enough to clear Tom?
7. Is Mayella Ewell a sympathetic character?
8. What does Tom say happened? Who do you think is telling the truth?
9. Why does Tom say he helped Mayella? How does this hurt Tom's defense?
10. In his closing arguments Atticus presents facts why Tom Robinson is not guilty. What does he say the Ewell's case rests upon?
11. How does Atticus explain what "all men are created equal" means?
12. Are you surprised by the jury's decision? How do you feel about the outcome of the trial?

Discussion: The jury's decision against Tom Robinson is unfair and shocking. Could this happen today?

Read Chapters 22-25

1. Bob Ewell spits on Atticus and threatens to "get him." Is Atticus worried?
2. What are some reasons Atticus gives for people not serving on juries? Jem thinks they should be abolished. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. Jem decides there are four kinds of people. Who are they? How many kinds of people does Scout think there are?
4. Why does Jem think Boo Radley doesn't come out of his house?
5. The missionary tea party reveals once again the prejudice that was common in the South in the 1930's. What is hypocritical about the purpose of the tea party?
6. Why do Miss Maudie, Aunt Alexandra, and Scout calmly return to the tea party? Do you agree with their behavior?
7. What is significant about the roly-poly bug?
8. Mr. Underwood, even though a racist, writes a scathing editorial about what happened to Tom Robinson. (Note: Even though the editorial does not mention mockingbirds, the message is the same.) How do the townspeople react?

Read Chapters 26-27

1. How have the children's feelings changed toward Boo Radley?
2. What does Miss Gates lecture the children about in Current Events? What puzzles Scout about the lecture? How does Jem respond to Scout's questions? Why?
3. What indications are there that Bob Ewell is holding grudges?
4. How does Atticus respond to Aunt Alexandra's concerns about these grudges?

5. Why do the Maycomb ladies decide that this Halloween will be different?

Chapter 28 is the climax of the story. Lee uses the literary device of *foreshadowing* which gives readers clues or hints about coming plot developments. These clues help to build dramatic tension.

Read Chapters 28-31

1. What are some examples of foreshadowing in this chapter?
2. Why is the attack so surprising?
3. Why did Scout not recognize Boo Radley at first?
4. Why does Sheriff Tate want to cover up what Boo Radley did? Do you think he is doing the right thing?
5. Is there any evidence that Scout has learned the lessons of compassion and understanding that Atticus has been teaching throughout the book?
6. How old was Scout at the beginning of the book? How old is Scout now?
7. Why does Scout say she would lead Boo Radley through the house, but she would never lead him home?
8. What does Scout realize while standing on Boo Radley's porch?

Activities

1. According to Atticus and Miss Maudie it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. Choose a character that represents a mockingbird in the novel. Write two or three paragraphs describing the character and how the title applies to him or her.
2. View a copy of the film version from your local library or rental company. Write an essay comparing the movie to the book.
3. Final Writing Assignment

To Kill a Mockingbird is a coming of age novel. The literary term for this genre is **bildungsroman**, which is German for "formation novel." A coming of age story tells of the growth and maturity of an individual, achieved through personal conflict, usually with society. Some coming of age novels are *The Red Badge of Courage*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Great Expectations*. As in these novels, the protagonist in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is immature and rather self-absorbed but goes on to experience difficulties and pains that enable her to develop in maturity and learn to think more of the wellbeing of others.

This week you will be writing a five-paragraph literary essay that examines Scout's growth throughout the novel. A literary essay is basically a written opinion using facts. In this case you will be drawing your facts from the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* to support your opinion of what events caused Scout to grow in maturity and how these events affected her.

After reviewing the book, choose three events that stand out to you as having the most effect on Scout's development. The first paragraph of your essay will introduce your subject, beginning with a broad, general statement about coming of age, leading to your more specific thesis statement. The thesis statement should include the three events. The next three paragraphs are

called supporting paragraphs. Each will highlight one of the events. The closing paragraph will restate your thesis and summarize your points without repeating the same words.

After writing your first draft, ask your teacher to read it and to highlight the thesis statement in the first paragraph. Using this thesis statement, your teacher should be able to then highlight the topic sentence of each supporting paragraph that reflects the points of the thesis statement. Finally, your teacher should be able to highlight the restated thesis statement in the concluding paragraph. If your teacher is unable to find these points in each paragraph, you need to rewrite your essay and try again.

After your teacher has checked your essay for these main points, you should review it one more time, looking for any grammatical or spelling errors. Think of a title that captures your thesis and would interest someone in reading the paper; then make a final copy.

Answers

Chapters 1-3

1. Scout Finch, a five-year-old girl. The story is told from the child Scout's viewpoint.
2. Dill suggests making the mysterious, reclusive Boo Radley come out of his house. The Radley family was not well liked in town. When their son Arthur (Boo) got into trouble as a teenager, the judge released him to his father, known as "the meanest man in town." Boo was not seen again for fifteen years. When Boo's father died, his brother came home and took Mr. Radley's place. Boo is never seen in the daytime and only occasionally at night. He is feared by all the children in town.
3. According to Jem, Boo is about six and a half feet tall. He eats raw squirrels and cats which have left his hands blood-stained. He has a long-jagged scar across his face and his few teeth are yellow and rotten. He has bulging eyes and drools most of the time.
4. Atticus paid Jem to take Scout. He tells Scout not to bother him at school, not to embarrass him, or tag along. In other words, to leave him alone.
5. Miss Caroline is displeased that Scout knows how to read and tells her to tell her father to stop teaching her because he is not a trained teacher. She doesn't believe Scout when she tells her that reading just came to her. Scout can also write in cursive. Miss Caroline says she needs to stop because cursive is not taught until third grade.
6. The Cunninghams are very poor. She learned from her father's experience with the Cunninghams that they never take anything that they cannot repay.
7. Miss Caroline is very young and inexperienced. She is discouraged and embarrassed when she is reprimanded for not having control of her class.
8. He has to miss school every spring to work on the family farm.
9. The Finches are not wealthy, but Mr. Finch is a well-educated professional. He sees the value of an education and makes sure his children attend school regularly. The Finches are the upper-class of Maycomb. The Cunninghams are very poor. Mr. Cunningham is a farmer and his children sometime have to miss school in order to help around the farm. They would be considered the middle class. The Ewells are members of the lowest class. They are poor, lazy, and dirty. Their father does not care if they go to school, so they just go the first day to satisfy the truant officer and then drop out.

10. He tells her that she will get along better with people if she tries to understand them.
11. Even though Scout is only five-years old, Atticus talks to her and Jem as if they were adults. He explains difficult concepts and uses big words.

Chapters 4-8

1. Scout finds the educational system boring and unproductive. She says she learns more at home from reading anything she can get her hands on than she does at school. She feels that she is being cheated out of something.
2. Discuss this with your student. Note that Calpurnia is African-American, but she also makes a distinction between whites and blacks. Discuss why this might be.
3. Miss Maudie says Jem is wrong; Boo Radley is not dead. He doesn't come out of his house because he doesn't want to. She says if he isn't crazy, he should be because of the way he has been treated. She remembers when he was a boy he always spoke nicely to her.
4. Atticus tells them to stop playing their game of "Boo Radley" and to not make fun of Boo or anybody else. Jem admits they were not making fun of him, we were just..., inadvertently admitting they were playing the game.
5. Dill says they were playing strip poker. Dill's Aunt Rachael is horrified that the children are gambling. Atticus just tells the children not play poker anymore.
6. She is afraid Jem will be shot by Mr. Nathan Radley.
7. Nathan Radley assumes it was a black person who was trespassing, and he equates the trespasser with a dog. No one questions his assumption.
8. We are not told. Could it be the same person that mended Jem's pants?
9. When the children find the knothole filled with cement, Jem tells Scout not to cry even though there is no indication that Scout was going to cry. Later, Scout discovers that Jem has been crying. It would appear that Jem was trying to stop himself from crying because he was disappointed that they were losing contact with their secret friend.
10. During the confusion caused by the fire, Boo Radley wraps a blanket around Scout who was standing in the cold. Jem has started to piece events together – his mended pants, the gifts in the knothole, and now the blanket were all done by Boo. Scout is just horrified that Boo had been right by her and she didn't know it.
11. Miss Maudie puts a good face on the situation by declaring she always wanted to live in a smaller house which would also give her more room for a garden. Her scratched and dirty hands are an indication that she fought to save her home.

Chapters 9-11

1. Common can mean that something is widespread or usual, but it can also mean vulgar or ill-mannered. This is the way Atticus is using the word.
2. Atticus feels it is his duty to represent Tom Robinson. He tells Scout he would lose all sense of self-respect as well as all moral authority over Jem and Scout if he didn't.
3. She is hoping that Atticus will think she picked them up at school and will keep her home.
4. When Francis says that his grandmother is going to teach him how to cook, Scout laughs at him and tells him boys don't cook.

5. Jem and Scout are rather embarrassed by their father. He's older than their friends' fathers; he works in a boring office; he doesn't fish, hunt, play poker or even smoke like the other fathers; plus, he wears glasses. All he does is sit and read at home.
6. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." Mockingbirds represent the innocent who do no harm. Boo Radley has been mistreated all his life, even though he seems to have a good heart and good intentions, like mending Jem's pants and putting a blanket around Scout. We will see that Tom Robinson is also innocent but will suffer harm.
7. A rabid dog wanders into town and everyone shuts themselves into their homes. The sheriff and Atticus confront the dog, but he is too far away for the sheriff to shoot him. Atticus is forced to make the shot, Jem learns why Atticus' nickname used to be "Ol' One Shot."
8. Miss Maudie tells Jem about why his father gave up hunting. When Scout plans on bragging about what a good shot her father is, Jem forbids her. "I reckon if he'd wanted us to know it, he'da told us. If he was proud of it, he'da told us." Discuss Miss Maudie's statement and your opinions.
9. Mrs. Dubois knows that she is dying. She has become addicted to morphine and does not want to die an addict. Jem's reading helps her to break the habit and she dies free.
10. "It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin any way and you see it through no matter what." Discussion

Chapters 12-16

1. Now that Jem is twelve, he has become difficult to live with, inconsistent and moody. He is growing up. To make matters worse, Dill is not coming for the summer. Finally, the state legislation is called into a special session and Atticus is gone for two weeks.
2. Calpurnia takes them to her church, First Purchase African M.E. Church. Everyone welcomed them except for Lula. First, since they do not live in a prejudiced home, neither Atticus nor Calpurnia exhibit that kind of behavior, they are surprised to encounter it at Calpurnia's church. Next, they are surprised to hear Calpurnia change the way she talks. Finally, they are surprised to learn that only four people can read in Calpurnia's church.
3. The inside of the church is different. It is not painted and there is no ceiling. There is no sign of a piano, organ, hymn books, or church programs. A reader reads the hymns one line at a time and the congregation sings that line. The sermon is much the same except that the Reverend calls people out by name to chastise them. After the offering is taken, the preacher counts it and says that they need ten dollars more and calls on the congregation to each give something extra.
4. The black community is poorer and less educated. They have not been given the same opportunities that those in the white community have enjoyed. On the positive side, the black community is seen as united and one that takes care of its own.
5. Calpurnia says that she talks the way the people around her talk because it would seem like she was giving herself airs if she talked the way she did at the Finches. She says it would just aggravate everyone and cause trouble.
6. The trial of Tom Robinson is about to get underway and things are going to get tense and ugly.

7. She thinks the families that can trace their heritage back the farthest are Fine. Scout is confused because she thought Fine Folks were people that “did the best they could with the sense they had.” By Aunt Alexandria’s definition the worthless Ewell family was a fine family.
8. Part of maturing is being able to see things from someone else’s point of view. Jem shows he is maturing when he asks Scout not to antagonize Aunt Alexandria because it would worry Atticus who has other matters to focus on. Jem also shows maturity when he tells Atticus that Dill has run away from home. “Then he rose and broke the remaining code of our childhood.”
9. At first Dill says that his family was mean to him, but later he admits that they just didn’t need him or want him around. To Scout, this is worse than if they were mean to him.
10. In preparation for the trial, Tom Robinson is being moved to the Maycomb jail. The sheriff doesn’t want to face an angry mob intent upon breaking into the jail and lynching Tom.
11. Atticus plans to sit up all night outside the jail to guard Tom.
12. The sheriff and his men were tricked into leaving the jail. The mob did not expect anyone to be there.
13. For the first time in his life he openly refuses to obey Atticus when he is told to go home.
14. The seating arrangements reflect segregation in the South at that time. Blacks and whites had separate drinking fountains, separate bathrooms, and, in the courtroom, there was a separate seating arrangement. Whites were allowed in first and sat on the ground floor, while blacks were assigned the balcony.
15. There could be several reasons – out of respect for Reverend Sykes, out of respect for Atticus, or because of the habit of giving way to whites.

Chapters 17-21

1. Bob Ewell is surly and rude. His language is crude and flippant. He is uneducated and harbors a hateful, racist attitude.
2. A doctor would have been able to tell if Mayella had been assaulted. The fact that the sheriff was willing to take the word of a man like Bob Ewell underlines the accepted prejudice in that society. It also shows that Mayella’s wellbeing was not of any importance.
3. Atticus is verifying that Bob Ewell is left-handed.
4. Unlike her father who doesn’t bathe, Mayella tries to keep herself clean. She also tries to grow red geraniums in the filthy hovel where they live.
5. She is unused to anyone showing her respect, so when Atticus calls her “Miss Mayella” she thinks he is making fun of her.
6. Tom Robinson’s left arm had been badly mauled in a cotton gin accident. Since Mayella’s injuries were on the right side of her body, she would have been hit by a left-handed man, such as her father. Answers will vary.
7. Mayella might also be considered a mockingbird. She lives in abject poverty with an abusive father and no friends. Her loneliness and hard life make her somewhat sympathetic. But the fact that she uses innocent Tom Robinson, who just tried to be kind to her, to cover up her own shame, makes it difficult to feel sorry for her.
8. Tom’s testimony is very different from Bob and Mayella’s. Mayella, in her loneliness, has taken to asking Tom to do small chores for her. On the day she was attacked she sent

the children away so that she could try to get Tom to kiss her. When her father looked in the window and saw what she was doing, he ran in as Tom ran away, and beat her.

9. Tom helped Mayella because he felt sorry for her. This turned the courtroom against him because it was unthinkable and offensive that a black man could feel pity for a white woman.
10. "...the evil assumption that all Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings, that all Negro men are not to be trusted around our women..."
11. Atticus acknowledges that people are not all equal, some are smarter than others, some are better looking than others, some bake better cakes than others, but in the courtroom, all are the same. "Our courts have their faults, as does any human institution, but in this country our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts all men are created equal."
12. Answers will vary.

Chapters 22-25

1. Even though Bob Ewell is a despicable man, perhaps Atticus believes that Ewell will leave him alone now that he has won. Atticus once again makes the point that we need to understand other people and make allowances. Aunt Alexandra does not agree.
2. In that time, women were not allowed to serve on juries (another example of prejudice?), some people are afraid, some people are too busy, and some don't want to make serious decisions.
3. The ordinary kind – the Finches and their neighbors, the upper class
The kind like the Cunninghams – laborers, common people
The Ewells – dirty, uneducated, shiftless
The Negroes – Calpurnia, Reverend Sykes
Scout thinks there is one kind of folks. Folks
4. Jem has figured out that if there was just one kind of folks, people would get along. That helps him understand why Boo Radley doesn't come out of his house. Since it is evident that there are different kinds of folks who can't get along, that must be why Boo Radley doesn't want to come out among them.
5. The ladies at the missionary tea are full of sympathy for the poverty and difficult lives suffered by an African tribe but cannot see that the people right in their own backyard are suffering as well, and most of it is caused by the whites.
6. The ladies carry on as if nothing has happened because they believe it would be bad manners to upset the party, and they know the reaction to the news will be inappropriate and make them mad.
7. The roly-poly bug, like the mockingbird, is a metaphor for creatures who don't do any harm and should be left alone.
8. The majority of the town thought Mr. Underwood was just trying to be poetical. They use what happened to Tom to confirm their prejudiced ideas.

Chapters 26-27

1. The children now are ashamed of the way they tormented Boo. They realize that he is not a deranged monster, but a shy recluse.
2. Miss Gates lectures the children about how the Jews are mistreated by Hitler and how fortunate they are to live in a democracy where people are not prejudiced and treat all fairly. Scout doesn't understand how this accords with the way the ladies, including Miss

Gates, were talking at the missionary tea. “Jem, how can you hate Hitler so bad an’ then turn around and be ugly about folks right at home -” Jem tells Scout to quit talking about the trial. According to Atticus, “Jem was trying hard to forget something, but what he was really doing was storing it away for a while, until enough time passed. Then he would be able to think about it and sort things out.”

3. First, Ewell accuses Atticus of getting him fired. Then an intruder is seen at Judge Taylor’s house. Finally, Tom’s widow Helen is harassed by Ewell.
4. Once again Atticus understands how Ewell must feel and is sure he will get over it.
5. In the past, Halloween was an unorganized celebration. Because of some mischief the previous year, the Maycomb ladies decide to organize a town celebration at the school that includes a children’s pageant.

Chapters 28-31

1. Aunt Alexandria has a “prick of apprehension” as the children are leaving for the pageant. When passing the Radley house, Scout trips over a tree root just as she does when fleeing her attacker. The children are startled when Cecil Jacobs jumps out from behind a tree like Bob Ewell does when they are walking home.
2. From the way Bob Ewell has been acting, it is expected that he will try to attack Atticus. It’s not so surprising that he chose to come after the children, because he is a cowardly man.
3. Scout and Jem had thought of Boo as more like a ghost than a human being. She wasn’t expecting him to be an ordinary man.
4. “To my way of thinkin’, Mr. Finch, taking the one man who’s done you and this town a great service an’ draggin’ him with his shy ways in to the limelight – to me, that’s a sin.”
5. When Atticus asks Scout if she understands the Sheriff’s decision, she shows she has learned the lessons by saying, “Well, it’d be sort of like shootin’ a mockingbird, wouldn’t it?”
6. Scout was five-years old. She is now eight.
7. Scout has grown up enough to consider Boo Radley’s feelings over her own. She decides that it would be demeaning for her to treat him like a child and lead him home. Once they step outside she allows him to take the lead as the adult. “If Miss Stephanie Crawford was watching from her upstairs window, she would see Arthur Radley escorting me down the sidewalk, as any gentlemen would do.”
8. She finally gets a glimpse of the world from Boo Radley’s perspective and she realizes Atticus was right. To understand someone, you had to stand in their shoes and walk around in them.