

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

***To Kill a Mockingbird***  
Study Guide

**Directions: Your answers should be WRITTEN in complete sentences. Your answers should be thorough, specific, analytical, and accurate.**

**PART ONE**

**Chapter 1**

1. What narrative point of view does Harper Lee use to begin the story?
2. What can the reader expect to learn from this narrative point of view?
3. What is the setting of the story?
4. How does Harper Lee use this setting to set the tone?
5. Why does Jem tell Scout (the narrator) not to ask Dill about his father?
6. What can the reader infer about Jem and Scout's relationship from this exchange?
7. Briefly describe how the Radleys are different from the other people in Maycomb.
8. Why does Jem take three days to accept Dill's dare and go up to the Radleys' home?
9. What theme is Lee introducing with Jem's response to Dill's dare?
10. What does Harper Lee mean by calling Miss Stephanie Crawford, "a neighborhood scold?" (p. 11)
11. From the beginning of the story, the narrator reflects on events of the past. How is this evident to the reader, and how may it affect suspense and story development?
12. What is the first event that Lee uses to begin building suspense in the story?
13. Briefly describe Boo Radley. What purpose does Boo serve in this story?

14. Identify the literary device in the following quote and explain the reference.  
Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself. (pp. 5–6)

## **Chapter 2**

1. Why does Miss Caroline hit Scout with the ruler?
2. Is Scout's first day of school what she expected? Why or why not?
3. How does Harper Lee use the school setting to give the reader important exposition about Southern culture?
4. How does Harper Lee show that Miss Caroline is not familiar with Maycomb customs?
5. What could be Lee's motivation for having Miss Caroline come from another county rather than from Maycomb?
6. How does Lee create sympathy for Miss Caroline at the end of the chapter?
7. Describe Lee's use of humor as Jem tries to explain Miss Caroline's teaching theories to Scout.

## **Chapter 3**

1. Why does Jem invite Walter to dinner?
2. What social issue does Lee introduce with the character of Walter Cunningham?
3. What does Atticus mean when he says to Scout, "—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it?" (p. 30)
4. Compare and contrast Walter Cunningham and Burris Ewell. What is Lee illustrating with the differences in these two characters?
5. Why does Atticus not want Scout to tell Miss Caroline about their compromise?
6. What does this indicate about Atticus' character?

7. The reader learns that Scout and Jem's mother is dead, and they have an African-American housekeeper named Calpurnia. What significance does Calpurnia have for the plot?
8. Although Scout does not learn anything academic on the first day of school, she has several opportunities to learn about human nature, social customs, and relationships.
9. Briefly describe some of the non-academic lessons Scout learns on the first day of school.

#### Chapter 4

1. Briefly describe the symbolism of Scout's nickname and how it is appropriate.
2. What does Jem's response to Scout's chewing the gum tell the reader about his feelings for her?
3. What is Lee's intent by having Scout say:  
"...As for me, I knew nothing except what I gathered from *Time* magazine and reading everything I could lay hands on at home, but as I inched sluggishly along the treadmill of the Maycomb County school system, I could not help receiving the impression that I was being cheated out of something. Out of what I knew not, yet I did not believe that twelve years of unrelieved boredom was exactly what the state had in mind for me." (pp. 32–33)
4. What do Scout's reasons for wanting to stop the game foreshadow?
5. What literary device is Lee using in the following quotation?  
"...some tinfoil was sticking in a knot hole just above my eye level, winking at me in the afternoon sun." (p. 33)
6. What can the reader infer from the two Indian head pennies?
7. What character trait do Jem and Scout illustrate with their ambivalence about taking the pennies?

#### Chapter 5

1. What emotion is Scout really displaying in the following passage?  
...Dill was becoming something of a trial anyway, following Jem about. He had asked me earlier in the summer to marry him, then he promptly forgot about it. He staked me out, marked as his property, said I was the only girl he would ever love, then he neglected me. I beat him up twice but it did no good, he only grew closer to Jem. (p. 41)

2. What does Lee show about Scout's character through this passage?
3. How does Scout's conversation with Miss Maudie develop the reader's sympathy for Arthur (Boo) Radley?
4. How does Lee use humor to discredit Miss Stephanie's stories about Boo?
5. Why is Atticus angry with Jem, Scout, and Dill?
6. Based on Atticus' conversations with the children, briefly describe his attitude toward the Radleys.
7. What conclusions can the reader infer about Atticus' character?
8. What are specific examples that the children are not paying attention to Atticus' advice about their actions toward other people?
9. What makes these actions more acceptable from children than if they had been done by adults?

## Chapter 6

1. When Scout becomes suspicious of Dill's suggestion to go for a walk, how do the boys' respond?
2. What examples does Lee use to show that Scout does not act like a proper, Southern young lady?
3. How does Lee use light and darkness to create suspense in this chapter?
4. How does Lee illustrate racism in the following passage?  
 Mr. Radley shot at a Negro in his collard patch....Shot in the air. Scared him pale, though. Says if anybody sees a white [n-word] around, that's the one. Says he's got the other barrel waitin' for the next sound he hears in that patch, an' next time he wo not aim high, be it dog, [n-word], or ... (p. 55)
5. Describe Scout's internal conflict when Jem decides to go get his pants.
6. What does Scout mean when she says, "It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company?" (p. 56)

7. What could Lee's purpose be for having Scout say this (quote from #6)?

## **Chapter 7**

1. What does Scout mean when she says, "I tried to climb in Jem's skin and walk around in it...." (p. 57)?

2. What is significant about her saying this?

3. What makes second grade better than first grade for Scout?

4. What is ironic about Jem's telling Scout about the pants on this specific day?

5. What does the reader learn about Jem's character in this chapter when he decides to write a letter?

6. Why does Lee periodically have Jem and Scout find something in the tree?

7. What did Atticus mean when he told Scout to delete the adjective and she would have the facts?

8. Why does Lee include this conversation in the book?

9. What does Lee accomplish by having Jem ask Nathan Radley about the cement in the knot hole?

10. What does Jem's reticence to cry in front of Scout foreshadow?

## **Chapter 8**

1. What is ironic about Mr. Avery's allusion to the Rosetta Stone?

2. How does Scout show that she does not know Mr. Avery's purpose for using this allusion?

3. After seeing the snowman that the children built, Atticus praises Jem in an unusual way by saying that he's "...perpetrated a near libel...." (p. 67) What does Atticus mean?

4. What could Lee be foreshadowing with the unusual weather?
5. Explain the irony of Calpurnia's telling Atticus that she will be warmer in her own house than in their house on the night of the snowstorm. What could Lee mean by having
6. Calpurnia say this?
7. Why does Atticus start to get angry at the children after the fire?
8. What can the reader infer from Jem's reaction to Atticus' request for him to get the wrapping paper out of the pantry?
9. What does the blanket symbolize?
10. How does Lee use Miss Maudie's conversation with Jem and Scout the morning after the fire to illustrate the theme of racism?

## **Chapter 9**

1. How does Lee use Scout's innocence as a vehicle to explain Atticus' attitude toward African-Americans?
2. How does Lee use humor when Atticus talks to Scout about saying "[N-word]?" (p. 74)
3. What is the effect of this humor?
4. How does the allusion to the Missouri Compromise (p. 76) help explain Maycomb's attitude toward the Civil War?
5. How might the reader's impression of Aunt Alexandra be different if Lee had written the story in third person?
6. What does the reader learn about Dill in this chapter?
7. Why does Lee mention this?

8. How does Lee create sympathy for Scout in this chapter?
9. What can the reader infer about Lee's purpose for introducing Uncle Jack in this chapter?
10. How can the reader see Scout change during this chapter?
11. What suspense does Lee create for the reader in this chapter?
12. At the end of the chapter, Atticus tells Jack that Judge Taylor assigned the Robinson case to Atticus. How might this impact the reader's impression of Atticus?
13. What upsets the children the most about Atticus taking on the Robinson case?
14. What is Lee's purpose for having the children hear the community's attitude toward Atticus?

## **Chapter 10**

1. Briefly describe Atticus' character.
2. In the following quotation, what is the meaning of "tooth and nail," and what type of literary expression is this?  
"I would not fight publicly for Atticus, but the family was private ground. I would fight anyone from a third cousin upwards tooth and nail." (p. 90)
3. According to Scout's narrative, what is the children's impression of Atticus?
4. How does Lee occasionally offer the reader an adult perspective of Scout's narrative?
5. How does the children's picture of Tim Johnson compare with Calpurnia's description of the dog when she calls Mr. Finch and Miss Eula May?
6. Why does Lee include this event in the story?
7. How does Lee use Calpurnia's actions in dealing with Tim Johnson to show the subtle discrimination prevalent in small Southern towns?

8. What did the children learn about Atticus as a result of their sighting of Tim Johnson?
9. What character trait does Lee reinforce by having Atticus shoot the dog, tell the children to stay away from the dog's body, and then return to the office?
10. How did it affect their opinion of Atticus?
11. How does Lee introduce the significance of the book's title?
12. What does it symbolize?
13. What does Jem mean about Atticus being a gentleman like him?
14. What change does this illustrate about Jem?

## **Chapter 11**

1. What is Lee's purpose for introducing Mrs. Dubose?
2. Why does Jem destroy Mrs. Dubose's camellia bushes?
3. How does the reader benefit from Scout telling the story about Mrs. Dubose as an adult looking back at her childhood?
4. What is the purpose of Scout's allusion to Dixie Howell? (p. 103)
5. What humor does Lee use to lighten Atticus' discussion with Jem about reading to Mrs. Dubose?
6. What does Lee show about Atticus' character when Scout asks him the meaning of "[n-word]-lover?" (p. 108)
7. How does Atticus use Mrs. Dubose's death to teach the children about courage?
8. How does Atticus' definition of courage foreshadow upcoming events?

## **Part One Summary**

1. Briefly describe Scout's character development in this part of the book.
  2. How does Scout's role as narrator affect the reader's understanding of the story?
  3. What is Lee's purpose for including Boo Radley in the story since the reader has not seen him?
  4. How does Lee use the setting of Maycomb, Alabama to emphasize the themes of the story?
  5. How has Jem's attitude about courage changed from the beginning of the story?
  6. Is Atticus an example of a static or dynamic character? Explain your answer.
  7. What is the significance of Boo Radley's nickname?
- 

## **PART TWO**

### **Chapter 12**

1. Why is Scout so surprised when Jem says, "It's time you started bein' a girl and acting right...?" (p. 115)
2. What is Lee's purpose for having Jem say this?
3. What literary devices is Lee using when she has Scout describe Atticus' trip to Montgomery by saying, "...The Governor was eager to scrape a few barnacles off the ship of state; there were sit-down strikes in Birmingham; bread lines in the cities grew longer, people in the country grew poorer...?" (p. 118)
4. Why are these statements significant?
5. Why is Calpurnia so concerned about the children's appearance when she takes them to First Purchase?
6. Why does Lee introduce the character of Lula into the story?

7. Why does Calpurnia speak differently at First Purchase than she does with the children in their home?
8. What is Lee illustrating with this switch and Scout's questions about it?
9. How does Lee use the children's experience at First Purchase to show the similarities and differences between the African-American and the white religious communities?
10. What is the significance of Calpurnia's description of learning to read?
11. How does this affect Scout?

### **Chapter 13**

1. Why did Aunt Alexandra come to stay with Atticus, Jem, and Scout?
2. What does her arrival tell the reader and the people of Maycomb about her relationship with Atticus?
3. What does Atticus mean when he says, "I cannot stay here with you all day, and this summer's going to be a hot one?" (p. 128)
4. How does Lee use humor to show that she does not approve of using family heritage as a way to judge people?
5. How is this significant to the character of Aunt Alexandra?
6. What type of literary device is the following quotation?  
"Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove,  
but never into the world of Jem and me." (pp. 131 –132)
7. What does Scout mean?
8. Briefly describe the impact of Scout's role as narrator as she describes Aunt Alexandra's explanation of cousin Lily Brook's book about Joshua S. St. Clair.
9. Why did the children feel so isolated and upset when Atticus asked them to listen to Aunt Alexandra's explanations of the significance of being a Finch.

10. What does Scout mean when she says, "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." (p. 134)

## **Chapter 14**

1. Describe how Atticus' and Aunt Alexandra's reactions to Scout and Jem visiting
2. Calpurnia's church reflect their attitudes toward African-Americans.
3. What does Scout mean when she says, "I felt the starched walls of a pink penitentiary closing in on me, and for the second time in my life I thought of running away. Immediately." (p. 136)
4. How is this statement ironic?
5. Give two examples of Jem's increasing maturity, and explain each example along with Scout's response.
6. Why did Dill really run away?
7. How does Lee use Dill's explanation to create sympathy for him?
8. If Dill were the narrator, how might he respond to Aunt Alexandra's attention?
9. How does his relationship with his mother and step-father affect his possible response to Aunt Alexandra?
10. What can the reader infer from Scout's question about Boo Radley running away and Dill's response?

## **Chapter 15**

1. Why does Jem call out to Atticus that the phone was ringing?
2. What is Lee's purpose in adding this to the story?
3. How does Lee create suspense leading up to the confrontation at the jailhouse?

4. What is the significance of Lee's use of light and dark in this chapter?
5. What does the man mean when he says that they "...Called 'em off on a snipe hunt...?"(p. 151)
6. How does this affect Atticus?
7. What is Lee's purpose for having Scout jump into the circle of men unexpectedly at the jail?
8. What does Jem's refusal to obey Atticus indicate with respect to Jem's character?
9. What aspects of Scout's character does Lee draw on to disperse the lynch mob outside the jail?
10. By talking to Walter Cunningham as she did, what lesson does Scout show Atticus that she has learned?
11. What is surprising about Mr. Underwood's comments from the dark?

## **Chapter 16**

1. Explain the significance of Scout comparing Atticus in front of the jail to Atticus, "...standing in the middle of an empty waiting street, pushing up his glasses." (p. 156)
2. Why does Aunt Alexandra get upset with Atticus for talking about Mr. Underwood in front of Calpurnia?
3. What does this show about Aunt Alexandra's character?
4. What does Atticus' comment that Calpurnia "...knows what she means to this family" (p. 157) show about his own prejudices?
5. Why does Lee have Aunt Alexandra confine the children to the yard?
6. Briefly describe the atmosphere in town the day of the trial.
7. What clues does Lee give the reader about the atmosphere?

8. What does Lee illustrate with Jem's explanation of Mr. Dolphus Raymond's behavior?

## **Chapter 17**

1. Describe the impression that Tate gives the reader through his recount of the event and Atticus' cross-examination.
2. What conclusion can the reader draw about Lee's purpose for Tate's testimony?
3. What is the significance of Bob Ewell's legal name?
4. What can the reader infer from Atticus' emphasis on the location of Mayella's injuries and Bob Ewell's dominant hand?
5. What literary device does Lee use in referring to Bob Ewell as "...a little bantam cock of a man...strutted to the stand...?" (pp. 169–170)
6. What is the irony about Bob Ewell's response to Mr. Gilmer's question about being ambidextrous?
7. Compare Jem's and Scout's attitudes at the end of this chapter regarding the progress of the trial.
8. What do their attitudes tell the reader about their understanding of race relations in Maycomb?
9. What is Lee's purpose in having the Ewell family accuse Tom Robinson of rape?

## **Chapter 18**

1. How does Scout's initial description of Mayella Ewell show Scout's character growth?
2. Identify several elements that Lee uses to create suspense during Mayella's testimony.
3. How does Lee create sympathy for Mayella?
4. How does Lee create conflict for the reader with respect to seeing Mayella as a sympathetic character by the end of her testimony?

5. How does Scout's description of Atticus after cross-examining Mayella illustrate his consistent character?
6. Why does Atticus ask Tom to stand up?

## **Chapter 19**

1. Why does Lee begin this chapter with a description of Tom trying to take the oath in the trial?
2. Why does Atticus ask Tom about previously being in trouble with the law?
3. What does Lee illustrate with Scout's pity for Mayella?
4. What is the significance of Tom Robinson admitting that he felt sorry for Mayella?
5. How does Mr. Gilmer further emphasize Tom's error?
6. What does Tom mean when he says, "...it were not safe for any [n-word] to be in a—fix like that?" (p. 198)
7. What is the implication of Mr. Gilmer calling Tom a boy?
8. Why is Dill the one who gets upset by these references?
9. What does Scout mean when she says that Atticus is, "...the same in the courtroom as he is on the public streets?" (p. 199)
10. Why does Lee have Link Deas interrupt the trial?
11. What is the symbolism of the courthouse lights in the following passage?
12. "This time Judge Taylor's gavel came down with a bang, and as it did the overhead lights went on in the courtroom." (p. 194)
13. What does Dolphus Raymond's comment foreshadow at the end of this chapter?

## Chapter 20

1. What is Lee's purpose for inserting Raymond's conversation with Scout and Dill in the middle of the drama of the trial?
2. Why does Raymond constantly carry a brown bag with Coca-Cola in it?
3. What does the bag represent?
4. Why did Atticus remove his coat, loosen his tie, and unbutton his vest?
5. What type of literary device does Atticus use when he says, "This case is as simple as black and white?" (p. 203)
6. How is Atticus's choice of words ironic?
7. What was Lee's purpose in having Atticus' identify the court as the only place that all men are equal?

## Chapter 21

1. What is the significance of Lee's portrayal of Calpurnia as she comes into the courtroom and as she walks home with the children?
2. What literary device does Lee use in the sentence, "If Mr. Finch don't wear you out, I will—get in that house, sir!" (p. 207)
3. What does this sentence illustrate?
4. Compare Scout and Jem's opinions of the length of the jury deliberations.
5. Why does Reverend Sykes make Scout stand up as her father walks by?

## Chapter 22

1. What is the significance of Aunt Alexandra saying, "I'm sorry, brother..." (p. 212) to Atticus?

2. What does Atticus mean when he says, “They’ve done it before and they did it tonight and they’ll do it again and when they do it—seems that only children weep?” (p. 213)
3. What is significant about Atticus saying the same thing that Mr. Raymond said to Scout and Dill?
4. How does Lee remind the reader of the character of Miss Stephanie, Miss Rachel, and Miss Maudie through their comments to children after the trial is over?
5. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says, “There are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs...?” (p. 215)
6. Why does Lee use Miss Maudie to explain Atticus’ role in the community?
7. What does Bob Ewell’s confrontation with Atticus foreshadow?

### **Chapter 23**

1. Describe how Atticus’ response to Ewell’s threat is consistent with his character.
2. What does Jem misunderstand about the length of the jury’s deliberations?
3. What is the significance of this jury’s deliberations and the effect they have on Jem?
4. Why does Lee select a Cunningham to be the juror who cast the not-guilty votes?
5. How does Lee use humor to change the tone of Atticus’ conversation with the children about the jury’s verdict?
6. Describe how Aunt Alexandra’s response to Scout’s comment about Walter Cunningham is consistent with her character.
7. What evidence of Jem’s increasing maturity does Lee include in this chapter?

### **Chapter 24**

1. Explain the satire that Lee uses in this chapter.
2. Explain the irony of Mrs. Merriweather's comments about getting the preacher to help "...her lead a Christian life for those children from here on out." (p. 231)
3. Why does Miss Maudie get so angry at Mrs. Merriweather?
4. What is Lee alluding to when Mrs. Merriweather says, "Mrs. Roosevelt's lost her mind— just plain lost her mind coming down to Birmingham and tryin' to sit with 'em...." (p. 234)
5. What does Mrs. Merriweather mean when she says, "It's never entered that wool of hers that the only reason I keep her is because this depression's on...?" (p. 233)
6. How does Aunt Alexandra's reaction to Tom's death mirror Jem's distress after the trial?
7. How do Aunt Alexandra, Miss Maudie, and Scout follow Atticus' example by returning to the missionary circle?
8. Why is this so significant for Scout?
9. What literary device does Lee use when Scout is describing how she pumped the organ in the chapel at Finch's Landing?
10. What is Scout's purpose for this description?

## **Chapter 25**

1. What is the significance of Jem's reaction to Scout when she starts to kill the roly-poly?
2. What does Lee show through Maycomb's lack of concern about Tom's death?
3. What can the reader infer about Lee's use of "...the senseless slaughter of songbirds..." in Underwood's editorial?

4. When describing her thoughts about Underwood's editorial, how does Scout show that she has not lost all of her childhood innocence, but is beginning to understand the implications of racism?
5. How does Lee create suspense at the end of this chapter?
6. What does Ewell's comment foreshadow?

### **Chapter 26**

1. Briefly describe the examples that Lee uses in this chapter to show Scout's continuing character development. What does each example illustrate about Scout?
2. What does Scout mean when she says, "...time was playing tricks on..." her (p. 243)
3. What type of literary device does Lee use in the following statement?
4. Perhaps Atticus was right, but the events of the summer hung over us like smoke in a closed room. (p. 243)
5. Why did Jem get so angry at Scout?
6. What is Lee's purpose for re-introducing Boo Radley in this chapter?

### **Chapter 27**

1. How does Lee use other Maycomb citizens to build suspense?
2. What is Lee's purpose for the allusion to the WPA and the Ladies' Law?
3. What do they signify?
4. What does Atticus' reaction to Ewell's problems with the WPA and Link Deas indicate to the reader about Atticus' character?
5. Briefly describe Scout's relationship with Aunt Alexandra at this point in the story.

6. How does Lee use humor to soften the seriousness of the prank that was played on the two vulnerable sisters on the previous Halloween?
7. How does Lee re-create the sense of foreboding at the end of the chapter?

### **Chapter 28**

1. How does Lee use light and darkness to create the tone at the beginning of this chapter?
2. What is the significance of "...the solitary mocker...in blissful unawareness of whose tree he sat in...?" (p. 254)
3. What is Lee's purpose for having Scout fall asleep backstage while waiting to make her entrance?
4. How does Lee increase the level of suspense as the children being walking home?
5. How does Scout's role as the narrator affect the reader's sense of the attack on the children?
6. How does Scout realize that Aunt Alexandra really does love her and accept her for who she is?
7. How does Atticus show his own innocence when talking to Heck Tate?
8. What clues does Lee give the reader about Ewell's death?
9. What conclusions can the reader draw from these clues?

### **Chapter 29**

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra feel responsible for what happened?
2. What clues does Lee give the reader about how Atticus feels?
3. What do Atticus' comments tell the reader about his beliefs?
4. What clues does Lee give Scout so she can realize who the countryman really is?

5. What is the symbolism of Scout's reference to Arthur Radley's feathery hair?

### Chapter 30

1. What does Scout mean when she says, "...then I understood. The living room lights were awfully strong?" (p. 271)
2. How does Lee help Scout see Boo Radley as a human being rather than the monster that she and Jem had always considered him?
3. Why does Heck Tate want to cover up the real cause of Ewell's death?
4. How does Atticus misinterpret this?
5. What does Atticus' refusal to avoid a trial for Jem show about his character?
6. Briefly discuss Scout's reference to the mockingbird when Atticus asks if she understands Tate's decision.
7. Why is Tate so adamant about protecting Arthur Radley?
8. How does Lee show the reader Tate's intent?
9. Which character learns the most about human nature in this chapter?

### Chapter 31

1. What is the significance of Scout's guiding Arthur Radley through the house and then to his own home?
2. What does Scout mean when she says, "Autumn again, and Boo's children needed him?" (p. 279)
3. Why does Lee have Atticus read *The Gray Ghost* to Scout?
4. What is the significance of Atticus putting Scout to bed after she falls asleep in Jem's room?