

To Kill A Mockingbird

Study Guide Student Edition

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

assuaged – soothed

chattels – slaves

dictum – rule

diverted – turned

flivver – old, cheap car

foray – short journey

impotent – powerless

imprudent – bold

malevolent – evil

nebulous – cloudy

predilection – tendency

strictures – restrictions

taciturn – quiet

vapid – dull

1. Who is the narrator of this novel?
2. How do we know that the narrator is an older person looking back to her youth?
3. What other information do we get in the first two paragraphs?
4. What is the setting of the novel?
5. What is the mood of Maycomb?
6. The fifth character introduced is Calpurnia. Describe her.
7. Who are the first four characters mentioned?
8. What began the misery of the Radley house?

Chapter 2

Vocabulary

delegation – group

enact – act out

entailment – restriction placed on estate inheritance

illicitly – without permission

indigenous – native to

uninitiated – not yet introduced to

1. What picture of Atticus, as a father, do we get in this chapter?

2. What do we learn about the Cunningham clan?

Chapter 3

Vocabulary

amiable – friendly

concede – admit to

contemptuous – hateful

cordially – warmly

diction – choice of words

diminutive – very small

disapprobation – disapproval

erratic – irregular

expounding – explaining

fractious – quarrelsome

iniquities – injustices

irked – bothered

judiciously – generously

Who are the Ewells, and why are they allowed special privileges?

2. What compromise does Atticus make with Scout?

Chapter 4

Vocabulary

abominable – horrid

arbitrated – refereed

auspicious – promising

evasion – avoidance

quelling – overcoming

scuppernongs – plum-like fruits

unanimous – agreed by all

1. What game do the children make up in this chapter?
2. What information does Scout give us at the end of this chapter? Who do you suppose was inside the house and what did Scout hear?

Chapter 5

Vocabulary

asinine – mindless

benevolence – good will

benign – harmless

edification – illumination; instruction

inquisitive – curious

magisterial – authoritative

peril – danger

pestilence – plague

placidly – calmly

tacit – understood but unspoken

1. When Miss Maudie says, “but sometimes the Bible in the hands of one man is worse than a whisky bottle in the hands of—oh, of your father.” What person is she criticizing, and what is the point of her criticism?
2. The children view Boo Radley as a strange and frightening figure. How do Miss Maudie and Atticus view Arthur Radley?

Chapter 6

Vocabulary

dismemberment – mutilation

ensuing – following

malignant – evil

pilgrimage – journey

prowess – skill

solitary – only

waning – dwindling

Describe what the children were doing in the Radley yard and what they saw that made them run away?

2. Why is it important to Jem that he go back and get his pants before morning?
3. What line indicates that Jem decided what they did was wrong?
4. What might account for Jem's change of heart?

Chapter 7

Vocabulary

ascertaining – finding out

meditative – thoughtful

rendered – made

tarnished – rusty

vigil – lookout

Jem has been acting odd since he went to get his pants that night. What surprised him that night?

2. Who do you suppose was responsible for the gifts in the knothole and Jem's pants? Why does he do this?
3. Why is Jem so upset the knothole is plugged?
4. Why is Jem crying at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 8

Vocabulary

aberrations – deviations

accosted – attacked

adjacent – neighboring

caricatures – exaggerated likenesses

libel – unlawful attack on character

perpetrated – committed

procured – obtained

treble – high

unfathomable – impossible to understand

Why does Atticus make the children leave the house and stand in front of the Radley house?

2. Who put the blanket around Scout's shoulders and how did the person know she was cold?

3. What does Atticus mean when he says, "looks like all of Maycomb was out tonight, in one way or another"?

4. Why do they decide not to return the blanket at this time?

Chapter 9

Vocabulary

analogous – comparable

deportment – behavior

fluently – with ease

gastric – stomach-related

guilelessness – innocence

hookah – water-pipe

induce – persuade

ingenuous – childlike

innate – inborn

inordinately – excessively

invective – insulting language

lineaments – features

mortify – embarrass

obstreperous – unruly

1. Why does Atticus think that he can't win Tom Robinson's case?
2. Who calls Scout a coward; why does she walk away?
3. Why is Atticus worried about Scout learning to "keep her head" in the next few months?
4. In the last sentence of this chapter, what does Scout mean?

Chapter 10

Vocabulary

foliage – leaves and flowers

inconspicuous – unnoticeable

jubilantly – joyfully

mausoleum – tomb; gloomy building

rudiments – basics

vehemently – passionately; forcefully

Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?

2. Why are the children a little disappointed and a little ashamed when they compare Atticus to other fathers?

3. What does Atticus do that surprises the children and makes them feel proud?

4. Why does Jem say that they should not tell anyone at school about the incident?

Chapter 11

Vocabulary

antagonized – tortured
apoplectic – as if about to have a stroke
cantankerous – difficult; cranky
devoid – empty
palliation – glossing-over
passé – out of style
philippic – tirade
premise – assumption
propensities – inclinations
protruded – stuck out
reconnaissance – brief survey
rectitude – moral uprightness
tranquil – calm
umbrage – offense
undulate – rise and fall
viscous – thick (refers to liquid)

Describe Mrs. Dubose.

Why does Jem knock the top off her flowers?

3. What does Atticus mean when he says, “The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a man’s conscience”?
4. What is Jem’s punishment for knocking the tops off of Mrs. Dubose flowers? Why is the time period extended each day?
5. What does Atticus say real courage is?

Chapter 12

Vocabulary

altercation – quarrel

appalling – disgusting

austere – stern

contentious – quarrelsome

denunciation – condemnation

habiliments – clothes and accessories

qualms – misgivings

tedious – tiresome

At the beginning it is apparent that this is novel which deals with the passage of a youth from innocence to maturity. In what sense is Jem “coming of age”?

2. What does Scout mean when she says of Calpurnia, “Again I thought her voice strange: she was talking like the rest of them.”

3. The mature narrator (Scout) seems to be upset by the way both the African-American and white churches regard women. What is it specifically that upsets her about what the churches teach?

4. What is “linin” and why is it done?

Chapter 13

Vocabulary

dispatched – sent out

dispelled – scattered; did away with

elusive – hard to pin down

formidable – awe-inspiring; frightening

myopic – narrow-viewed

obliquely – indirectly

prerogative – exclusive right

sustain – support; nourish

warily – cautiously

How does Aunt Alexandra treat Calpurnia?

2. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to visit?

3. What is Aunt Alexandra's major theory concerning human behavior?

Chapter 14

Vocabulary

erosion – decay

infallible – undefeatable

manacles – restraints

pensive – thoughtful

rankling – aggravating

resilient – flexible

reverent – full of respect

How does Atticus explain rape to Scout?

2. What does Jem tell Scout she should do when dealing with Aunt Alexandra and how does she react to his suggestion?

3. Why does Dill run away from home?

4. What does Jem do that shocks Dill and Scout?

Chapter 15

Vocabulary

acquiescence – going along with

aggregation – assembled group

encumbered – weighed down

futility – uselessness; hopelessness

impassive – expressionless

oblivious – unaware

ominous – menacing

privy – outhouse

succinct – to the point

uncouth – graceless

venerable – impressively aged

venue – place for an event

1. What is the mood in Maycomb as the trial approached; what is Jem worried about?
2. Why does Jem think that something is wrong when Atticus leaves?
3. For what reason do the men come to the jail?
4. How does Scout stop them?

Chapter 16

Vocabulary

affluent – wealthy

countenance – appearance; face

elucidate – clarify

fey – campy

multitudes – crowds

prominent – leading; widely known

reminiscent – reminding one (of)

unobtrusive – unnoticeable

vista – view

What does Atticus say about mobs and men over the breakfast table?

2. What is significant about Mr. Dolphus Raymond?

3. What news does Scout get from the “Idlers’ Club”? What is it that confuses her?

Chapter 17

Vocabulary

acrimonious – biting

ambidextrous – equally capable with each hand

bantam – lightweight

complacently – in a self-satisfied way

congenital – had at birth

corroborating – confirming; supporting

tenet – principle

1. Who is the first person to take the stand and testify?
2. What does Atticus spend much of his time asking Mr. Tate?
3. Where do the Ewells live, and what does this say about their social position in Maycomb county?
4. How does Mr. Ewell act when he first takes the stand, and how does Judge Taylor react to him?
5. What is Mr. Ewell's version of what happened?
6. Why does Atticus want Ewell to write his name?

Chapter 18

Vocabulary

brash – aggressive; arrogant

distilled – extracted the essence of

exodus – mass journey

involuntary – not on purpose

mollified – soothed

rove – wander

serenely – calmly

strenuous – vigorous

1. What is Mayella's version of what happened?
2. Why does Mayella think that Atticus is mocking her?
3. What is Atticus' strategy in questioning Mayella?
4. What is wrong with Tom Robinson's arm?
5. What question is the key to Tom's defense?

Chapter 19

Vocabulary

ex cathedra – in the exercising of one's position

expunge – delete

impudent – cocky

volition – will

1. What did Mayella do to get the other children out of the house?
2. What did Tom's running away from the Ewell's house suggest? What else could he have done?
3. Why does Dill begin to cry?
4. What is Tom actually guilty of?

Chapter 20

Vocabulary

aridity – dryness
caliber – quality
contraband – smuggled goods
distaff – maternal
industrious – hard-working
integrity – decency
iota – bit
temerity – nerve

1. Why does Dolphus Raymond drink Coca-Cola and pretend it is liquor?
2. How does Dolphus Raymond explain Dill's crying?
3. How is Atticus' closing statement in defense of Tom Robinson also an attack upon racism?

Chapter 21

Vocabulary

cynical – distrusting of human nature
indignant – angry
remorse – feeling of guilt

1. What does Calpurnia's note say?
2. Why is Jem so certain that Tom Robinson would be acquitted?
3. What does Reverend Sykes say about his experiences in court?

Chapter 22

Vocabulary

fatalistic – believing the worst

ruefully – sorrowfully

What does Atticus mean when he says, it “seems that only children weep”?

2. Why do the African-American folks in town bring food to Atticus and how does Atticus react?

3. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says, “...we’re making a step—it’s just a baby-step, but it’s a step”?

4. How does Jem use a metaphor of a cocoon to describe himself?

Chapter 23

Vocabulary

commutes – changes

credibility – ability to be believed

furtive – sneaky

inevitable – unavoidable

infantile – babyish

sordid – vile

stolidly – matter-of-factly

1. How does Atticus take the threat that Bob Ewell makes?
2. If Tom is found guilty on appeal, what will his punishment be? Why?
3. Atticus says, "...it's all adding up and one of these days we're going to pay the bill for it." What is he referring to?
4. At the end of this chapter, what conclusion does Jem draw about Boo? What led him to this conclusion?

Chapter 24

Vocabulary

adjourned – broke up

apprehension – anxiety

bovine – cow-like

brevity – briefness

commenced – started

largo – slow tempo

sibilant – a sound like “sss” or “shh”

squalid – filthy

vocation – occupation

1. Who are the Mrunas and who is J. Grimes Everett?
2. What are some of the popular opinions among the missionary circle concerning blacks?
3. Why does Aunt Alexandra thank Miss Maudie with her eyes?
4. What is ironic about the concern the ladies of the Missionary Society have for the living conditions of the Mrunas?
5. Why did Tom run for the fence?

Chapter 25

Vocabulary

demise – death

veneer – false front

1. Why does Scout say that Jem is getting more like a girl?
2. To what did Mr. Underwood's editorial compare Tom's conviction and death?
3. What remark does Mr. Ewell make on hearing of Tom's death and what seems to be the significance of the remark?

Chapter 26

Vocabulary

allegedly – supposedly

ceased – stopped

spurious – phony; worthless

1. How does Scout feel about the way they once treated Boo Radley?
2. What do the children talk about in current events?
3. Why is Scout surprised that her teacher hates Hitler?
4. Why does Jem react so violently when Scout asks him this question?

Chapter 27

Vocabulary

annals – records

florid – flowery

notoriety – fame

purloined – stolen

1. What are some of the things Bob Ewell starts doing?
2. What is different about Halloween this year? Why?
3. What is Scout's role in the pageant; of what is her costume made?

Chapter 28

Vocabulary

irascible – hot-tempered

rustic – from the country; untutored

pinioned – bound

vicinity – surrounding area

1. What is the night of the pageant like?
2. How does Scout feel about Jem in this chapter; what does she say about him?
3. On the walk home, how does Scout's costume turn out to be a life-saver? What happens by the tree?
4. Who do you suppose the villain is? Who would you guess the hero to be?
5. What does Heck Tate find under the tree?

Chapter 29

Vocabulary

reprimand – scold

turmoil – unrest

When do you suppose Boo Radley came out of his house?

How does Scout describe Boo?

Chapter 30

Vocabulary

connived – plotted

eluded – escaped

Who does Atticus think killed Bob Ewell? Why doesn't he want it covered up?

2. Who really did stab Ewell, and why did Heck decide not to tell anyone of this?

3. What does Scout compare Boo's exposure to?



Chapter 31

Vocabulary

pointedly -- exaggeratedly making a point

1. What are some of the words Scout uses in this chapter to describe Boo Radley?
2. What is going through her mind as she stands on the Radley's front porch?
3. What is Atticus' final statement about people?