

**Anticipation/Reaction to the Mockingbird Symbolism in
Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird***



Before you start reading the novel, decide how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. In the box immediately to the left of each statement (the Anticipation column), write "1" if you strongly agree, "2" if you somewhat agree, "3" if you somewhat disagree, and "4" if you strongly disagree. Some statements can be interpreted in more than one way. After you have read the novel, cover the Anticipation column and fill in the Reaction column. Have your attitudes changed?

| Anticipation | | Reaction |
|--------------|---|----------|
| | 1. The saying, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me!" is true. | |
| | 2. Since the Civil War abolished slavery, Blacks have easily integrated into all areas of society. | |
| | 3. When the law does not succeed in punishing criminals, citizens should do so. | |
| | 4. Parents shouldn't give guns to their children. | |
| | 5. I would swat mosquitoes that have landed on me, but I'd never kill animals or other creatures that are not harming me. | |
| | 6. It's wrong to kill another person. | |
| | 7. All people, regardless of race, gender, economic status, or religion, have equal rights in our courts. | |
| | 8. A person who has extraordinary skill with weapons has an unfair advantage over birds, animals, and other people. | |
| | 9. A person found guilty in our courts of a violent crime should be killed. | |
| | 10. A dog with rabies should be killed. | |
| | 11. A prison guard should kill a convict attempting to escape. | |
| | 12. Lawyers should defend persons accused of serious crime. | |
| | 13. A child who insults another child's parent should be taught a lesson. | |
| | 14. It's wrong to hate anyone. | |

A "Peek at Boo"

Directions:

1. Re-read the following section carefully.

Chapter 6 **begin** on p.42 "Dill and Jem were simply going to peep in the window..." **end** on p.44 (top) with "He ran to the oak tree with his shorts".

2. Draw all the concrete details described in the selection. In other words, draw the scene as it is described. Do not add any details to your drawing that do not appear in the text. Use a page in your booklet. (Inside the front or back cover works well.)

You will become the "eyes" of the characters. You are like a camera. You need to be able to support anything you draw with evidence from the book...Don't draw what you imagine you think you see. Only draw what is actually described in this section.

Title your paper A "Peek at Boo".

To Kill A Mockingbird - Chapter 9 Discussion

"Do you defend niggers, Atticus?" I asked him that evening.

"Of course I do. Don't say nigger, Scout. That's common."

"s what everybody at school says."

"From now on it'll be everybody less one – "

"Well if you don't want me to grow up talking that way, why do you send me to school?" (p. 62)

What does this passage reveal about Atticus? Explain.

What does this passage reveal about the people of Maycomb? Explain.

What is Atticus' explanation for defending Tom Robinson? Provide a CD and an explanation.

What do we learn about Uncle Jack, Aunt Alexandra and Francis in this chapter? Explain.

What do we find out about Atticus' philosophy of education in this chapter? Explain.

What is Atticus worried about at the end of chapter 9? Explain.

What does Atticus think will be the outcome of the trial? Why? Explain.

Do you think Atticus should defend Tom Robinson? Why or why not? Explain.

Why do you think Atticus wanted Scout to hear his conversation with Uncle Jack? Explain.

To Kill A Mockingbird - Chapter 10 Discussion

1.) What is the most important passage in Chapter 10? Why? Explain.

2.) "Atticus was feeble: he was nearly fifty. When Jem and I asked him why he was so old, he said he got started late, which we felt reflected upon his abilities and manliness. He was much older than the parents of our school contemporaries, and there was nothing Jem or I could say about him when our classmates said, "My father – " (p. 74)

What does this passage reveal about Jem and Scout's feelings regarding their father? Explain.

3.) What are all the things Atticus can do according to Miss Maudie?

4.) What does Atticus do much to the surprise of his children?

5.) Why did Atticus never tell his children about his shooting abilities? Explain.

6.) "Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird. That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it. (...) 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." (p. 75)

Why is it a sin to kill a Mockingbird? Why do you think Atticus feels so strongly about this? Explain.

7.) How may this become a theme of the novel? Are there any characters so far who could be considered a Mockingbird? Explain.

8.) Why does Jem tell Scout at the end of the chapter not to tell anyone at school what Atticus did? Explain.

Jigsawing Chapters for To Kill a Mockingbird – A Project

Directions – You will be assigned a group that will have the responsibility of reading one or two chapters in the novel To Kill a Mockingbird and then presenting important information from that chapter to the class. After each group has presented, the class will have an understanding of parts of the novel.

My group members are:

Our assigned chapter is:

1. One person will provide a ¾ to 1 page (typed, double-spaced) summary of the chapter.
2. The second person in the group will create a poster of the chapter. The poster must be neat, organized, and in color. It must include the characters most involved in the chapter, the most significant quote of the chapter, and at least 4 images that best depicts the chapter. Impress me!
3. The third person in the group will answer the reading comprehension questions for the chapter.
4. All persons in the group will submit a total of 3(three) questions to be included on the quiz following each of the presentations. Decide who will present the questions orally allowing time for students to answer each one.
5. You must be present at the time your group is called in order to receive credit for the speaking portion. Do NOT be absent on the day of your presentation. Class time has been reserved for you.
6. All students must be prepared for all presentations by having read the chapter assigned for that day. In addition, all students must take brief notes from each presentation. The notes will be collected and graded along with the quiz given at the end of each presentation.

Grading Rubric Group Project To Kill A Mockingbird

| | |
|--|---|
| Name _____ | Period _____ |
| <u>Individual part of project assignment</u> | <u>Oral Part of the presentation</u> |
| _____/ 10 Content | _____/2 Eye contact with audience |
| _____/5 Quality of presentation | _____/2 Body posture |
| _____/ 5 Effort | _____/2 Speaking (clearly, able to be heard , pacing) |
| _____/5 Mechanics | _____/2 asking for clarification |
| | _____/2 Prepared and followed directions |

TOTAL _____/35

Group EXTRA CREDIT _____/2.5 All group members present
 _____/2.5 All group members prepared

To Kill A Mockingbird - Chapters 12-16 Discussion

Chapter 12

1.) What is happening to Jem and Scout at the beginning of the chapter? Explain.

2.) “When Lula came up the pathway toward us Calpurnia said, “Stop right there, nigger.”
 Lula stopped, but she said, “You ain’t got no business bringin’ white chillum here – they got their church, we got our’n. It is our church, ain’t it, Miss Cal?”

Calpurnia said, "It's the same God, ain't it?"
Jem said, "Let's go home, Cal, they don't want us here –"
I agreed: they did not want us here." (p. 100)

What do Jem and Scout experience in this situation? Explain.

3.) What do Jem and Scout learn about Calpurnia in this chapter? What do they realize for the first time?

Chapter 13

1.) "Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me." (p. 110)
What does this reveal about the children and their feelings towards Aunt Alexandra? How does she fit into Maycomb's society so well?

2.) "I never understood her preoccupation with heredity. Somewhere, I had received the impression that Fine Folks were people who did the best they could with the sense they had, but Aunt Alexandra was of the opinion, obliquely expressed, that the longer a family had been squatting on one patch of land the finer it was.
"That makes the Ewells fine folks, then," said Jem." (p. 109)

What does this reveal about Aunt Alexandra and the values she holds? How does this clash with the values Jem and Scout have been taught by Atticus? Explain.

Chapter 14

1.) Why does Jem ask Scout not to antagonize Aunt Alexandra? Why does he tell Atticus about Dill's arrival? What do these actions reveal about Jem?

2.) Why did Dill run away from home? What does this reveal about his family situation?

3.) Why does Scout not want to run away anymore?

Chapter 15

1.) Why is Atticus going to the jailhouse in the evening? Why does Jem want to follow him?

2.) Why did the farmers from Old Sarum come to the Jailhouse? Why did they send Heck Tate on an errand?

3.) "'What's the matter?' I asked.

Atticus said nothing. I looked up at Mr. Cunningham, whose face was equally impassive. Then he did a peculiar thing. He squatted down and took me by both shoulders.

'I'll tell him you said hey, little lady,' he said.

Then he straightened up and waved a big paw. 'Let's clear out,' he called. 'Let's get going, boys.'" (p. 129-130)

Why does Mr. Cunningham decide to go home after all? Explain.

Chapter 16

- 1.) "She waited until Calpurnia was in the kitchen, then she said, "Don't talk like that in front of them."
"Talk like that in front of whom?" he asked.
"Like that in front of Calpurnia. You said Braxton Underwood despises Negroes in front of her."
(...) I was beginning to notice a subtle change in my father these days, that came out when he talked with Aunt Alexandra. It was a quiet digging in, never outright irritation. (...)
"Anything fit to say at the table's fit to say in front of Calpurnia. She knows what she means to this family." (p. 131-132)

How are Atticus and Alexandra different in their interactions with Calpurnia? What does this reveal about their character?

- 2.) "So it took an eight-year-old child to bring 'em to their senses.... That proves something - that a gang of wild animals *can* be stopped, simply because they're still human. Hmp, maybe we need a police force of children. ... you children last night made Walter Cunningham stand in my shoes for a minute. That was enough." (p. 132)

Explain the significance of this quotation.

- 3.) "This was news, news that put a different light on things: Atticus had to, whether he wanted to or not. I thought it odd that he hadn't said anything about it-we could have used it many times defending him and ourselves. He had to, that is why he was doing it, equaled fewer fights and less fussing." (p. 137)

Why did Atticus not tell the children that he had been appointed to take the Tom Robinson case?

To Kill A Mockingbird Chapters 17-21 – The Trial

Chapters 17-19

1. Give an account of what happened at the Ewell's house.

2. Why did Mayella "seduce" Tom? Why did she lie on the witness stand?

3. Atticus continues to question Mayella about herself and builds up a picture of the Ewell's home life. Describe their home life.

4. Was Mayella raped? Who beat her? Why? Why did Mr. Ewell lie on the witness stand

5. What is so important about Tom Robinson's physical condition?

6. Could Tom have committed the crime for which he was accused? Is Tom truly guilty or innocent?

Chapter 20 - Persuasive Appeals

A General Summary of Aristotle's Appeals . . .

The goal of argumentative writing is to persuade your audience that your ideas are valid, or more valid than someone else's. The **Greek philosopher Aristotle** divided the means of persuasion, appeals, into three categories--**Ethos, Pathos, Logos**.

Ethos (Credibility), or ethical appeal, means convincing by the character of the author. We tend to believe people whom we respect. One of the central problems of argumentation is to project an impression to the reader that you are someone worth listening to, in other words making yourself as author into an authority on the subject of the paper, as well as someone who is likable and worthy of respect.

Pathos (Emotional) means persuading by appealing to the reader's emotions. We can look at texts ranging from classic essays to contemporary advertisements to see how pathos, emotional appeals, are used to persuade. Language choice affects the audience's emotional response, and emotional appeal can effectively be used to enhance an argument.

Logos (Logical) means persuading by the use of reasoning. This will be the most important technique because giving reasons is the heart of argumentation, and cannot be emphasized enough. Logos refers to the logic used to support a claim (induction and deduction); can also be the facts and statistics used to help support the argument.

Although they can be analyzed separately, these three appeals work together in combination toward persuasive ends.

Ethos –

1.) In your own words, describe what ethos is.

2.) What is the “ethos” Atticus tries to create of himself in his speech? Provide **two** examples from the speech.

II. Logos –

1.) In your own words, describe what logos is.

2.) List the five points in Atticus’ cross examination that established Tom’s innocence. In other words, what are the main points of Atticus’ closing argument?

III. Pathos –

1.) In your own words, describe what pathos is.

2.) How does Atticus appeal to the people’s emotions in his speech? Provide **two** examples from the speech.

3.) What emotion does Atticus try to encourage the people to feel? Why? Explain by using at least **two** examples from his speech.

IV. In General -

1.) How effective is Atticus’s speech? Provide evidence from the speech.

2.) Which one of the three rhetorical devices does he use the most effectively? Explain by providing examples from the speech.

Chapter 21

1. Explain why Tom was found guilty.

2. Did the verdict surprise you? Why or why not?

To Kill A Mockingbird - Chapters 22-31 Discussion

Chapter 22-23

1.) It was Jem's turn to cry.

"It ain't right, Atticus," said Jem.

"No son, it's not right." (p. 180) (...)

"I simply want to tell you that there are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us. Your father's one of them." (...)

"I always thought Maycomb folks were the bst folks in the world, least that's what they seemed like."

"We're the safest folks in the world," said Miss MAudie. "we're so rarely called on to be Christians, but when we are, we've got men like Atticus to go for us." (p. 182-183)

What is happening to Jem? What does he realize? What does this reveal about his character? What do we learn about the people of Maycomb?

2.) "You know something, Scout? I've got it all figured out, now. I've thought about it a lot lately and I've got it figured out. There's four kinds of folks in the world. There's the ordinary kind like us and the neighbors, , there's the kind like the Cunninghams out in the woods, the kind like the Ewells down at the dump, and the Negroes. (..) The thing about it is, our kind of folks don't like the Cunninghams, the Cunninghams don't like the Ewells, the Ewells hate and dispise the colored folks. "

(...)

"No, everybody's gotta learn, nobody's born knowing. That Walter's as smart as he can be, he just gets held back because he has to stay out and help his daddy. Nothin's wrong with him. Naw, Jem, there's just one kind of folks. Folks."

"That's what I thought, too," he said at last,"when I was your age. If there's just one kind of folks, why can't they get along with each other? If they're all alike, why do they go out of their way to despise each other? Scout, I'm beginning to understand something. I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time. . . it's because he wants to stay inside." (p. 192-193)

What is the significance of this passage? What are Scout an Jem realizing?

3.) "The one place where a man ought to get a square deal is in a courtroom, be he any color of the rainbow, but people have a way of carrying their resentments right into a jury box. As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it - whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash." (p. 187)

What is Atticus trying to teach Jem in this passage? Why? Explain.

Chapters 24-25

1.) What's ironic about Mrs. Merriweather's complaining about the "sin and squalor" among tribes in the jungle?

2.) What the significance of Miss Maudie's remark, "His food doesn't stick going down, does it?" (p. 198)

3.) Atticus leaned against the refrigerator, pushed up his glasses, and rubbed his eyes. "We had such a good chance," he said. "I told him what I thought, but I couldn't in truth say that we had more than a good chance. I guess Tom was tired of white men's chances and preferred to take his own." (p. 200)

What the significance of this passage? What does this reveal about Atticus' state of mind?

4.) "'Why couldn't I mash him?' I asked.

'Because they don't bother you,' Jem answered in the darkness. He had turned out his reading light." (p. 203)

Chapters 26-27

1.) "That's the difference between America and Germany. We are a democracy and Germany is a dictatorship. (...) Over here we don't believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced." (p. 209)

What is ironic about Miss Gates' Statement?

2.) "I heard her say it's time somebody taught 'em a lesson, they were getting way above themselves, an' the next thing they think they can do is marry us. Jem, how can you hate Hitler so bad an' then turn around and be so ugly to folks right at home?" (p. 210)

What is Scout realizing at this point of the novel?

Chapters 28-31

"When I pointed to him his palms slipped slightly, leaving greasy sweat steaks on the wall, and he hooked his thumbs in his belt. A strange small spasm shook him, as if he heard fingernails scrape slate, but as I gazed at him in wonder the tension slowly drained from his face. His lips parted into a timid smile, and our neighbor's image blurred with my sudden tears.

'Hey, Boo,' I said." (p. 229)

What's the significance of this passage?

2.) "Atticus looked like he needed cheering up. I ran to him and hugged him and kissed him with all my might. 'Yes sir, I understand,' I reassured him. 'Mr. Tate was right.'

Atticus disengaged himself and looked at me. 'What do you mean?'

'Well, it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?'"

What is the significance of this passage? What does this reveal about Scout's understanding of the situation?

2.) "Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them. Just standing on the Radley porch was enough."

What does this passage reveal about Scout and what she has learned throughout the novel?
