

Chapter 4

My school year went on pretty uneventfully. One day while walking home alone, I ran past the Radley's house as I normally do. This time, however, something caught my eye. I took a deep breath, turned around, and went back.

Next to the Radley house there were two tall oak trees. One of the trees had a knot-hole and there was some shiny tinfoil sticking out of it. I stuck my hand in the knot-hole and pulled out two pieces of chewing gum (Wrigley's Double-Mint). I quickly snatched it up and ran home, even though I wanted to cram it into my mouth. Once I got to the porch, I inspected my find. I sniffed and licked it, and when I didn't die, I put the gum in my mouth.

Jem came home and wondered where I got the gum. I finally told him that I found it in the Radley's tree. Jem yells, "Spit it out right now! Don't you know you're not supposed to even touch the trees over there? You'll get killed if you do!" and I obeyed.

Summer was on the way, which was our favorite season. It also meant that Dill was on the way. On the last day of school, we were let out early. As Jem and I walked past the Radley's oak trees, I saw shiny tinfoil again in the knot-hole. We both ran over, grabbed the prize and hurried home to examine it. It was a small jewelry box covered in tinfoil wrappers. Inside the box were two Indian-head pennies that were really old. Since this was pretty special, I began to think that this knot-hole might be someone's special hiding place. We tried to think of who walked that way and who might be using this as their hiding spot. We didn't know if we should keep them or put them back. Jem suggested that they keep them until school starts and then ask everyone if they're theirs. I noticed Jem looking back at the Radley's house for a long time and seemed to be real thoughtful.

Dill Finally arrives! Miss Rachel picks him up and we meet up with him a little later. Dill suggests picking up where they left off play-acting, but I'm tired of those. I thought it would be fun to roll in the tire. "I'm first!" I announced. I folded myself in the tire and Jem pushed me hard down the sidewalk. I was getting dizzy and couldn't get it to stop because it was going so fast. I hear Jem yelling behind me. All of a sudden I bumped into something and stopped. I lay on the cement for a while and hear Jem's voice: "Scout, get away from there, come on!" I opened my eyes and realized I was at the front of the Radley's steps. Jem came to get me and panicked. We both scurried out of there without the tire. Jem and I argued about who should go back and get the tire. Jem scowled and went back for it. He told me I was acting like a girl and there was nothing to it.

Calpurnia called us in for some lemonade. As we enjoyed our lemonade, Jem decided that we should play Boo Radley. What he meant was that we would play act using the Radleys as our characters. All throughout the summer we perfected our act. We added dialogue and made it long. One day when we were rehearsing one act, Atticus watched us. He told us that he hoped we were not pay acting about the Radleys, Jem and I argued over whether or not we should continue acting this out since Atticus told us not to.

Atticus's seeing us do this play-acting was the first reason I wanted to stop doing this. The second reason had to do with what happened earlier that day. After I rolled into the Radley's yard, I heard not only Jem's voice yelling but also another sound. It was a soft sound. Someone inside of the house was laughing.

Chapter 5

So, I thought we should stop playing "Boo Radley" because Atticus had warned us not to. Jem said we should just change the names of the characters and then nobody would know! Dill agreed. Dill, by the way, was being annoying. He had asked me earlier in the summer to marry him, then he promptly forgot about it. He had said I was the only girl he would ever love, but then he ignored me. I beat him up twice but it did no good, he kept becoming better friends with Jem.

Since Dill and Jem were becoming so close, I was beginning to feel left out. So I spent some time becoming friendly with Miss Maudie Atkinson. Miss Maudie was a nice lady who lived across the street. She had always let us play in her yard, but we had never really been close to her. Now Maudie

hated being indoors. She thought that time spent indoors was time wasted. She was a widow who worked in her garden wearing an old straw hat and men's overalls. She was pretty cool. She was honest, treated us with respect, and didn't like gossip.

One day I noticed that Miss Maudie had two minute gold prongs clipped to her eyeteeth. When I admired them and hoped I would have some eventually, she said, "Look here." With a click of her tongue she thrust out her dentures. Cool! I think that was her way of letting me know that she really considered me a friend!

Miss Maudie made the best cakes in the neighborhood. She would yell, "Jem Finch, Scout Finch, Charles Baker Harris, come here!" That meant that she had baked some small cakes for us, and we went running!

One evening I asked, "Miss Maudie, do you think Boo Radley's still alive?"

"His name's Arthur and he's alive," she said.

"How do you know?"

"What a morbid question. I know he's alive, Jean Louise, because I haven't seen anyone carry out a body!"

"Jem said that maybe he died and they stuffed him up in the chimney", I added.

Miss Maudie said, "Tsk. Tsk. Jem gets more like Jack Finch every day. They're both such wise-guys!"

Jack Finch was my uncle, Atticus's brother, and Miss Maudie had known him since they were children. Miss Maudie had grown up near Finch's Landing and used to play with Jack. Uncle Jack visited our house every Christmas, and every Christmas he yelled across the street for Miss Maudie to come marry him. He was such a jokester! Miss Maudie would call back, "Call a little louder, Jack Finch, and they'll hear you at the post office!"

Miss Maudie continued her answer about Boo Radley. "Arthur Radley just stays in the house, that's all. Wouldn't you stay in the house if you didn't want to come out?"

"Yessum, but I'd wanta come out. Why doesn't he?"

Miss Maudie explained that Mr. Radley was a "foot-washing Baptist" which means that he believes anything that's a pleasure is a sin. She said that some of those Baptists even passed by her house once and told her that she and her flowers were going to hell. They thought that Miss Maudie spent too much time outdoors and not enough time inside the house reading the Bible.

Miss Maudie said that these people were taking the Bible too literally. She said, "Sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of – oh, of someone like your father." She also said that "there are just some kind of men who—who're so busy worrying about the next world that they've never learned to enjoy this one. Like the Radleysv."

Miss Maudie said that all the stories about Boo were gossip – from people like Stephanie Crawford, who was always in everybody's business. She said that she remembered Arthur as a really nice boy.

The next day I caught Jem and Dill planning something. They finally told me what it was. They were going to try to get a note to Boo Radley!! They were going to put the note on the end of a fishing pole and stick it through the shutters. If anyone came along the street, Dill would ring the bell to warn Jem. Dill explained what the note said, "We're askin' him real politely to come out sometimes, and tell us what he does in there – we said we wouldn't hurt him and we'd buy him an ice cream." I told Dill that he and Jem were crazy and that Boo would kill us!

I was watching Jem try to get the note in the window, when all of a sudden we heard Dill ringing his bell! I thought I would turn around to see Boo Radley with bloody fangs; instead, I saw Dill ringing the bell with all his might in Atticus's face. Uh, oh!

When Atticus found out what we were trying to do, he told Jem to stop tormenting Arthur Radley. He continued on, saying that what Arthur did was his own business, not ours. If he wanted to come out, he would, and if he didn't, he had a right to stay inside without inquisitive children harassing him. He ended by saying that he did not want to see us playing the asinine game he had seen us playing or make fun of anybody on this street or in this town!!

Jem said, "We weren't making fun of him, we were just..."

"So that WAS what you were doing, wasn't it? You were acting out the Radley's life story as I suspected!" said Atticus accusingly.

Jem got flustered and realized that Atticus had tricked him into admitting that the "game" they had been playing was really us acting out the gossip we had heard about the Radley family. When Atticus said, "You want to be a lawyer, don't you," Jem realized that Atticus had used the oldest lawyer's trick on him! Atticus had pretended he knew we were playing Boo Radley, when really he only suspected it, and then Jem confessed without realizing!

Chapter 6

On Dill's last night with us that summer, before he went back to Mississippi to start school, Dill noticed Mr. Avery on his front porch. Dill said, "Golly, looka yonder." At first we saw nothing, but then we saw an arc of water falling from the leaves and splashing into the yellow circle of the street light ten feet away. Dill said, "Mrs. Avery must drink a gallon a day!" So I realized that Mr. Avery was peeing off his porch!! And then Dill and Jem argued over which one of them could pee further, and of course I felt left out again being a girl and all.

Later that night Dill and Jem said they were going to peep in the Radley's window to see if they could get a look at Boo. They said that if I didn't want to go with them I could go straight home and keep my mouth shut about it. I said, "Jem, don't..."

Jem said, "Scout, I'm telling you for the last time, shut your trap or go home – I declare to the Lord you're gettin' more like a girl every day!" So, I shut up and joined them. We snuck under a barbed wire fence and through a creaky gate into the Radley's yard. We had to be very quiet, and I was so nervous! We gave Dill a boost up to look in the window, but he didn't see anything. So we went around back and Jem crept across the porch and peeked in a window. That was when I noticed the shadow. It was the shadow of a man with a hat on, and it was moving towards Jem! The moonlight was bright enough to make shadows that night. Dill noticed it too, and then Jem. We were petrified!! The shadow stopped about a foot beyond Jem. Its arm came out from its side, dropped, and was still. Then it turned and moved back across Jem, walked along the porch and off the side of the house, returning as it had come.

We all made a run for it! We ran to the gate, and as we ran through the collards, I tripped. Then I heard the roar of a shotgun! We all scurried toward the barbed wire fence, but Jem got caught in it as he tried to go under. His pants were caught and he couldn't get them free, so he kicked his pants off and started running in his underwear!

After resting for a minute, we realized that because of the shotgun noise, the whole neighborhood was standing around in the Radley's front yard to see what was going on. We realized that we had better show up or else people might start to realize that it was US sneaking around in their yard! When we got there we saw Mr. Nathan Radley (Boo's older brother) standing with a shotgun by his side. Atticus was there, and Miss Maudie, Miss Stephanie Crawford, Miss Rachel (Dill's aunt), and Mr. Avery.

"What happened," asked Jem, as if he didn't know.

Miss Maudie replied, "Mrs. Radley says he shot at a Negro in his collard patch."

"Did he hit him?"

"No," said Miss Stephanie. "Shot in the air. Scared him pale, though. Says if anybody sees a white n****r around, that's the one. Says he's got another bullet waitin' for the next sound he ears in that patch, an' next time he won't aim high, be it dog, n****r, or – Jem Finch!?" Miss Stephanie had just noticed Jem standing there without any pants on!

"Yes, Ma'am?" asked Jem.

Atticus spoke. "Where're your pants, son?"

Dill spoke up quickly. He thought of a good excuse so nobody would suspect that it was really US in the Radley's yard. He told everyone that he had won Jem's pants from him in a game of strip poker. Jem and I relaxed, thinking this was a good excuse.

But Miss Rachel, Dill's aunt, was very upset. She didn't think we should be playing poker!! Gambling was a bad thing!! But we said we were only betting with matches, not with real money. So they calmed down a little. Sure, matches were dangerous, but gambling was really dangerous!! Kids shouldn't be gambling! It is kind of ironic that they're more concerned about us playing with cards than about us playing with matches!!

In the middle of the night, Jem had to sneak out to go back and get his pants, which were still stuck in the Radley's fence. If he didn't get the pants back, Atticus would know that Dill's strip poker excuse wasn't true. He didn't want Atticus to find out what he had done because he knew Atticus would be very disappointed in him. Jem said we shouldn't have gone to the Radley place like that. It was wrong. I was scared to let Jem go back there alone in the middle of the night, but he went anyway. After a while, he came back and crept into bed. Thank goodness!

Chapter	Summary of main events	Questions
4		<p data-bbox="1032 346 1433 411">What does Scout share at the end of the chapter?</p> <p data-bbox="1032 485 1365 518">Who was inside the house?</p>
5		<p data-bbox="1032 676 1417 848">What reasons does Atticus give when he tells the children to leave Boo alone and stop playing the Boo Radley game?</p>
6		<p data-bbox="1032 1068 1425 1134">What explanation does Jem give for his missing pants?</p>

Chapters 4-6 Quiz- Answer WITH COMPLETE SENTENCES

- 1. What did Jem and Scout find on their way home from school? (Hint: near Radley house)**
- 2. Who came to visit during the summer?**
- 3. When Scout rolled into the Radley yard, whom did you suspect was inside the house laughing?**
- 4. What did Atticus tell the children to stop doing?**
- 5. What reasons did Atticus give as to why they must stop doing it (question number 4)?**
- 6. How did Jem loose his pants?**
- 7. What happened that woke the neighbors?**
- 8. What reason does he give for losing his pants?**