

# To Kill a Mockingbird

By Harper Lee

## 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? How does Harper Lee use this setting to set the tone?
4. Why does Jem tell Scout not to ask Dill about his father? What can the reader infer about Jem and Scout's relationship from this exchange?
5. Briefly describe how the Radleys are different from the other people in Maycomb.
6. Why does Jem take three days to accept Dill's dare and go up to the Radley's home? What theme is Lee introducing with Jem's response to Dill's dare?
7. 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?
8. What is the first event that Lee uses to begin building suspense in the story?
9. Briefly describe Boo Radley. What purpose does Boo serve in this story?
10. What is the allusion that Lee makes in the following passage:

There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy and no money to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.

## 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 Lee show that Miss Caroline is not familiar with Maycomb customs?
5. What could Lee's motivation for having Miss Caroline come from another county rather than from Maycomb?

## Chapter 3

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

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 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."

3. What do Scout's reasons for wanting to stop the game foreshadow?
4. 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."

## Chapter 5

1. How does Scout's conversation with Miss Maudie develop the reader's sympathy for Boo Radley?
2. Based on Atticus's conversations with the children, briefly describe his attitude toward the Radleys. What conclusions can the reader infer about Atticus's character?

## Chapter 6

1. What examples does Lee use to show that Scout does not act like a proper, Southern young lady?
2. How does Lee use light and darkness to create suspense in this chapter?
3. 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 nigger 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 won’t aim high, be it dog, nigger, or....”

4. What does Scout mean when she says, “It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company?” What could Lee’s purpose be for having Scout say this?