

Unit – To Kill a Mockingbird

Essential Questions:

Why is racism dangerous?

What is courage? How do you know if people possess it?

What affect does the setting have on a story?

What influences a person's character?

Research: annotated bibliography and citation exercise (two separate projects)

You will learn:

- about how both courage and racism can alter people's lives
- the significance of empathy

Literary terms:

colloquialism – a local or regional dialect expression

frame narrative – when first person narrator starts as an adult who is remembering the past and returns again as the adult narrator at the end

static and dynamic characters – **Static** characters remain the same throughout a literary work; **dynamic** characters change.

flat and round characters – **Flat** characters are marked by a lack of complexity – they are caricatures (defined by a single idea or quality). **Round** characters have a high level of complexity and depth associated with real people and their ambiguities.

review: plot structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution), symbol, point of view, conflict, characterization, and foreshadowing

Evaluation: pop quizzes, test, and research assignment

The novel:

One of the most well-known and best-loved American novels, decades of American students have read To Kill a Mockingbird. As seen through the eyes of its protagonist – a young girl nicknamed “Scout” – a family and a town endures the racial and socio-economic battles that marked that place and time: Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression.

Notes for the setting vs. the publication date (Great Depression, Civil Rights movement):

PART I; Chapters 1-8

Chapter 1

1. Chapter 1 introduces us to the town of Maycomb, its appearance, its inhabitants, and the particular attitudes of many of its people. Find a phrase or sentence that illustrates the particulars of that setting. Quote at least a portion of the sentence or paragraph and give the page number, MLA style.

A. Class notes for novel's setting Maycomb):

B. Atticus Finch (*What did you learn about him? What do you know because of this information?*)

C. BOO RADLEY (*What did you learn about him? Does the information reliable? Why or why not?*)

Chapter 2

2. THE DEPRESSION (*What did you learn about its specific effects in the reading?*)

Chapter 3

3. Both Calpurnia and Atticus scold Scout for her criticism of Walter Cunningham. What are their specific reasons?

4. The focus of the novel is Scout's growth through her father's experiences: she starts as a six-year-old, and the narrative ends when she is 9. Both Calpurnia and Atticus guide Scout in this growth. What can you say about Atticus and Calpurnia? What do they want for Scout?

5. These three characters are all from poor families, and yet act quite differently: Burris Ewell, Walter Cunningham, Chuck Little. Describe their differences below.

	<u>appearance</u>	<u>attitude</u>	<u>one significant quote</u>
Burris			
Walter			
Chuck			

6. Atticus tells Scout, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb in his skin and walk around in it" (30). What is Atticus trying to teach his daughter?

Chapter 4

7. Where do you think the gum and the pennies are coming from? What makes you think so?

Chapter 5

8. What do you think of Miss Maudie? Describe something specific in the story that supports your opinion.

Chapter 6

9. What do Jem and Dill decide to do at the Radley house?

10. After the incident at the Radley's, Jem's real desire is not just to recover his pants, but to keep on good terms with Atticus. What does this tell you about his relationship with his father?

Chapter 7

11. Describe how Jem retrieves his pants: what are they like? How do you think they got that way?

12. Why does Mr. Nathan Radley fill the tree hole with cement (the reason he gives)? Does Jem believe him? Do you?

Chapter 8

13. Who puts the blanket on Scout during the fire at Miss Maudie's house?

Chapter 9

14. When Scout uses the word "nigger" what is Atticus's reaction?

15. Atticus says, "Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win" (76). What does this show about Atticus and his beliefs?

Chapter 10

Q 16. Atticus cautions Jem not to kill a mockingbird. Later, Miss Maudie explains why. What reason does she give?

17. What does Atticus do that impresses his children? Why isn't he proud of this skill?

18. Class notes about question #2 (important chapter):

Chapter 11

19. On page 112, Atticus explains to the children why he considers Mrs. Dubose to be a “great lady” and a brave person, despite her obvious poor qualities. How does her behavior before death “fit in” with his explanation of why he is defending Tom Robinson?

Chapter 12

20. How do you explain Lula’s antagonism toward Jem and Scout?

Chapter 13 - Dialectical Notes

Chapter 14

21. Describe how Jem “broke the remaining code of our childhood” (141). What does this show about Jem and Scout’s relationship?

Chapter 15

22. Where is Atticus and what do you think he’s doing?

23. Why does Jem openly defy Atticus and refuse to leave?

24. What does Scout’s childish attempt at conversation accomplish? Explain.

Chapter 16

25. Mr. Braxton Underwood – a known hater of negroes – protects Atticus at the jail. Why do you think he does this?

Chapter 17

26. Atticus spends a great deal of time discussing Mayella Ewell's injuries. What does he seem to want to reveal?

27. The Ewells are known as "poor white trash" by the residents of Maycomb. While they are poor, what do they do – how do they live – that causes others to look down at them?

Chapter 18

28. What is important about Tom Robinson's appearance? What, according to the testimony, does this **prove** beyond a doubt?

Chapter 19

29. According to Tom's testimony, what actually happened on November 21? Be specific.

30. What "mistake" did Tom make in saying that he felt "sorry" for Mayella?

Chapter 20

31. In five or six sentences, paraphrase Atticus's summation – closing speech – to the jury.

Chapter 21

32. Why do the Negroes stand when Atticus leaves the courtroom?

Chapter 22

33. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says that they have made a “baby step” in the right direction?

Chapter 23

34. How does Atticus react to Bob Ewell’s threat against him?

Chapter 24 - Dialectical Notes**Chapter 25**

35. What happens to Tom and what is most of the town’s reaction?

Chapter 26

36. Scout notices something. What is the irony of Ms. Gates’s lecture on democracy in the classroom compared to her comments at the trial?

Chapter 27 - Dialectical Notes**Chapter 28**

37. As they are walking home, what do Jem and Scout think the noises might be?

Chapter 29

38. Who saved Jem and Scout?

Chapter 30

39. There seems to be an understanding between Scout and Boo. Why do you think this is?

40. Heck Tate and Atticus have an argument – describe the details.

41. How does Scout convince Atticus that Heck is right?

Chapter 31

42. When she takes Boo home, Scout understands many things as she sees the street from the Radley's porch. Explain some things she "sees" now. What has Scout ultimately learned?

43. Name some other characters that have guided her, and describe their roles.

44. Which character has helped her the most in her development? Explain.

Character List for To Kill a Mockingbird

Jean Louise “Scout” Finch -

Atticus Finch -

Jeremy Atticus “Jem” Finch -

Arthur “Boo” Radley -

Bob Ewell -

Charles Baker “Dill” Harris -

Miss Maudie Atkinson -

Calpurnia -

Aunt Alexandra -

Mayella Ewell -

Tom Robinson -

Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose -

Nathan Radley -

Heck Tate -

Mr. Underwood -

Mr. Dolphus Raymond

Mr. Walter Cunningham -

Walter Cunningham -

Uncle Jack Finch -

Judge Taylor –

Miss Rachel Haverford –

Miss Stephanie Crawford –

;) Tim Johnson -