

Chapter 10

1. Scout says that "Atticus was feeble". Do you think that this is her view as she tells the story or her view when she was younger? Does she still think this after the events recorded in this chapter?
2. In this chapter Atticus tells his children that "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird". What reason does he give for saying this?
3. Why does Heck Tate not want to shoot Tim Johnson?
4. Near the end of this chapter Atticus cuts off Heck Tate as he is speaking to Jem. What might Heck have been about to say, and why would Atticus want to stop him from saying it?
5. Jem and Scout have different views about telling people at school how well Atticus can shoot. Explain this difference. Which view is closer to your own?

Chapter 11

1. How does Atticus advise Jem to react to Mrs. Dubose's taunts?
2. What does Mrs. Dubose say about the children's mother? How does Jem feel about this?
3. What request does Mrs. Dubose make of Jem? Is this a fair punishment for his "crime"?
4. Explain in your own words what Atticus thinks of insults like "nigger-lover". How far do you agree with him?
5. Why, in Atticus's view, was Mrs. Dubose "a great lady"?
6. Atticus says that Mrs. Dubose is a model of real courage rather than "a man with a gun in his hand". What does he mean? Do you think he is right?
7. Chapters ten and eleven are the last two chapters in the first part of the book. Explain why Harper Lee chooses to end the first part here.