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English 10~Doyle

To Kill a Mockingbird Study Guide

CHAPTERS 1-2

1. Describe the physical setting of the story. Use specific quotes from the novel and provide the page number.

2. What is the relationship between the narrator (identified later as Scout or Jean Louise) and her brother Jem and their father?

3. Who is Dill? Describe him and provide specific textual evidence to support your answer.

4. When the “routine” of Jem, Scout, and Dill’s summer becomes tiresome, what ideas does Dill have?

5. How has Mr. Radley seen to it that his younger son Arthur (Boo) caused “no further trouble” in Maycomb?

6. After Mr. Radley died, what changes occurred at the Radley Place?

7. What does Scout do to get into trouble with Miss Caroline?

8. What dare of Dill’s does Jem finally accept?

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CHAPTERS 3-4

1. Calpurnia lectures Scout on manners when Scout criticizes Walter's manners and Atticus supports her. What does this tell you about how both Calpurnia and Atticus feel about others?
2. Burris Ewell, Walter Cunningham, and Chuck Little are all from extremely poor families. However, there are great differences both in appearance and in attitudes, particularly between the Cunninghams and the Ewells. Compare and contrast the Cunninghams and the Ewells.
3. 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." What does this mean?
4. Why does Atticus say that the law is rigid for "common folk," but is bent in certain ways for the Ewells?
5. What is the compromise that Atticus suggests?
6. In what specific ways does Scout criticize the school she is attending?
7. Where do you suppose the gum and the pennies are coming from? What makes you think so?
8. Scout has two reasons for wanting to quit the "Radley Game." What are they?

CHAPTER 5

1. Who was laughing in the Radley house?
2. Why do you think Scout likes Miss Maudie Atkinson?
3. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says, “sometimes the Bible in one hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of (another man)?”
4. What do the three children try to do that gets them in trouble?
5. How does Atticus get Jem to tell him what their game was all about?

CHAPTERS 6-7

1. Why do the children go to look in the window of the Radley place?
2. What scares them away?
3. Who tries to shoot the children?
4. What happened to Jem’s pants when he tried to get through the fence?
5. What was unusual about the way Jem found his pants later that night?
6. What might have fixed them?
7. What other things did Jem and Scout find in the tree?
8. What did Jem find when he went to put the letter in the tree?
9. What reason did Mr. Radley give for doing this to the tree?
10. Atticus seems two-faced when he says, “Well maybe it is. I’m sure Mr. Radley knows more about his trees than we do.” Why might he have said this?

CHAPTER 8

1. What did it do for the first time since 1885 that winter?
2. What did Scout say when she looked out the window?
3. What did Mr. Avery tell Jem and Scout about the weather?
4. Describe how Jem made a snowman?
5. Who did the snowman look like?
6. Whose house caught fire?
7. Who put the blanket around Scout's shoulders?
8. Describe how Miss Maudie Atkinson responded to the fire.
9. What started the fire?
10. What does Miss Maudie NOT want to give to Miss Stephanie Crawford?

CHAPTER 9

1. Who does Scout fight with at the beginning of the chapter?
2. Why does she fight with him?
3. Who is Atticus defending?
4. Why does Atticus say that if he didn't defend this person, Jem and Scout would not have to listen to him anymore?
5. If Atticus expects to lose, why does he continue trying?
6. Why did Scout walk away from the fight?
7. Where do Jem, Scout, and Atticus go every Christmas?
8. Why does Scout start swearing?

9. Why did Scout beat up Francis?
10. What is “Maycomb’s usual disease”?

CHAPTER 10

1. Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?
2. Why does Scout feel ashamed about Atticus?
3. What is Tim Johnson?
4. What is wrong with him?
5. What does Calpurnia do when she sees him?
6. Who takes the gun to shoot him?
7. What does Miss Maudie call Atticus after the dog was shot?
8. Is Scout still ashamed of Atticus? Why?
9. What does Miss Maudie say is the reason that Atticus gave up shooting?
10. What does Miss Maudie say when Scout says, “Looks like he’d be proud of it”?

CHAPTER 11

1. How did Scout feel about Mrs. Dubose? Why?
2. What advice does Atticus give to Jem about Mrs. Dubose?
3. What did Mrs. Dubose say that upset Jem so much?
4. What did Jem do with the baton?
5. What is the “one thing that doesn’t abide by the majority rule”?
6. What does Mrs. Dubose ask Jem to do?

7. How does Scout describe Mrs. Dubose in bed?
8. Describe Mrs. Dubose's "fit":
9. What was Mrs. Dubose addicted to?
10. According to Atticus, what is "real courage"?

CHAPTERS 12-14

1. How does Jem change?
2. Identify Lula, Zeebo and Reverend Sykes.
 - a. Lula—
 - b. Zeebo—
 - c. Reverend Sykes—
3. What does Scout learn about Calpurnia?
4. Who was waiting for the children when they came home from the church service? Why had she come?
5. "Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand in a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me." Explain what this means.
6. Atticus and Alexandra disagree about how to deal with the children. How does Atticus handle the situation?
7. Describe Jem's and Scout's relationship through these chapters as Jem matures.
8. Why did Dill run away from home back to Maycomb?

CHAPTERS 15-18

1. Atticus discusses the Ku Klux Klan and concludes by saying that the Klan is gone. Is this statement correct? Explain.
2. Discuss the irony of the following statement and the situation which it describes: "there followed what I later realized was a sickeningly comic aspect of an unfunny situation: the men talked in near-whispers."
3. Why does Jem openly defy Atticus and refuse to leave?
4. What does Scout's childish attempt at conversation accomplish? Explain.

5. Why was Atticus so affectionate toward Jem after Jem disobeyed him?
6. Atticus spends a great deal of time discussing Mayella Ewell's injured. What does he seem to want to reveal?
7. The Ewells are "poor white trash." Explain this term according to what you know about the way they live and the kind of people they have appeared to be up to this point.
8. Mayella Ewell is both disgusting and pathetic. Give examples of both qualities by quoting statements she makes.
9. What is so important about Tom Robinson's physical appearance? What, according to the testimony, does this prove beyond doubt?

CHAPTERS 19-20

1. According to Tom, where had Mayella's brothers and sisters gone on the evening in question?
2. Identify what Tom says Mayella did to harm him while he was (1) standing on the chair (2) after he got off the chair; and (3) afterwards.
3. When Atticus asks Tom why he ran, what is his reply?
4. What mistake does Tom make when Mr. Gilmer is asking him to explain why he helped Mayella?
5. What explanation does Dill give Scout for his becoming sick?
6. How does Mr. Raymond explain his pretense about drinking?
7. When Scout and Dill return to the courtroom, what prediction does Jem make?

CHAPTERS 21-22

1. What does Jem think when Atticus calls them from the balcony?
2. Describe Cal's reaction to the children having been at the trial. What is Alexandra's reaction?
3. What is Reverend Sykes' response to Jem's certainty the jury will find Tom innocent?

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4. When the jury returns, what does Scout observe about them?
5. What is Atticus's response to Alexandra's attempt to say the children shouldn't have witnessed the trial?
6. What is Atticus's response to Jem's question about how the jury could have convicted Tom?
7. What causes Atticus's eyes to fill with tears?
8. What does Miss Maudie say about Atticus?
9. What had Bob Ewell done to Atticus?

CHAPTER 23

1. What had Atticus told Jem about having a gun around?
2. What is Atticus's conclusion about Bob Ewell's behavior that morning?
3. Explain what will happen to Tom if he loses his appeal.
4. When Jem suggests juried should be done away with, what does Atticus suggest should be done instead?
5. How does Atticus explain the fact that women can't serve on juries in Alabama?
6. How does Atticus explain his decision to have allowed Mr. Cunningham to sit on the jury?
7. What is Aunt Alexandra's decision about Walter Cunningham? What is her reasoning?
8. What conclusion does Jem come to about Boo Radley?

CHAPTER 24

1. What unfortunate characteristics do the ladies of the missionary circle display? Do you think this is typical of such groups?
2. Discuss the irony of Mrs. Merriweather's admiration for J. Grimes Everett and her attitude toward the trial.
3. Scout feels she prefers men to women. Why? Do you agree with her reasons?
4. What does Miss Maudie mean by, "We're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man?"

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5. In this chapter Scout learns something about being a lady and about Aunt Alexandra. Explain.

CHAPTER 25

1. How does most of the town react to Tom's death?
2. In what way is Mr. Underwood's editorial in the Maycomb Tribune similar to Atticus' advice to Jem and Scout when they got their guns?

CHAPTER 26

1. Scout is growing up. Explain her feelings now about:
 - a. Their former cruel games concerning Boo Radley:
 - b. Her remaining desire to see Boo in person:
 - c. Atticus' apparent knowledge about their previous activities:
 - d. "Current Events":
2. What is the irony of Miss Gates' lecture on democracy when compared to her comments at the trial?
3. When Scout tries to tell Jem about Miss Gates, why does he react so violently? Explain Atticus' answer to her about this.

CHAPTER 27

1. What were three threatening things that had happened in Maycomb by the middle of October? How do the methods of each thing or occurrence tell you about the kind of man Bob Ewell is.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Why do Atticus and Aunt Alexandra decide against going to the Halloween pageant?

CHAPTER 28

1. What does Cecil Jacobs do before the pageant which helps set up the incidents which occur after the pageant?
2. What things do Jem and Scout think the noise might be?

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3. How many people are finally involved in the skirmish under the tree?
4. Bullet point the attack scene below. List in order of events what happens to Scout and Jem:

CHAPTER 29

1. Who saved Jem and Scout?
2. Atticus and Heck Tate disagree over the essential worth of Bob Ewell. Whom do you agree with and why?
3. Briefly describe the meeting between Scout and Boo. How does this compare to how she imagined the meeting would be?

CHAPTER 30

1. There seems to be an immediate understanding between Scout and Boo. Why do you think this is so?
2. Atticus and Heck Tate have a heated argument. Explain. Does either of them really believe what he is saying?
3. How does Scout assure Atticus that Mr. Tate is right?

CHAPTER 31

1. When she takes Boo home, Scout understands many things as she sees the street from this new point of view. Explain some of the things she “sees” now.
2. What are some themes in this novel?

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