

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view- ...-until you climb into his skin and walk around in it" - Atticus Finch

Objective:

- You will "climb into the skin" of a character found in Ch 12-31 of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to understand his or her point of view.
- You will choose a character, a question, and a focus. You will respond to the question with a short story or interior (inner) monologue that mimics the voice and style of the character and includes descriptive language.

Activity:

1. Pick a character.

Sample Character:

WALTER CUNNINGHAM

2. Find and write down four quotes that reveal traits about your character and quotes that showcase the dialect of the character. *Find quotes that can be analyzed and mimicked.*

Sample Traits and Quotes:

1. Polite and withdrawn- "Walter shook his head. 'Nome thank you ma'am,' he drawled softly" (Lee 19)

2. Pride/Integrity - " 'The Cunninghams never took anything they can't pay back- no church baskets and no scrip stamps. They never took anything oof of anybody, they get along on what they have. The don't have much, but they get on it'"(Lee 20).

3. Apprehensive- "Walter stood where he was, biting his lip. Jem and I gave up, and we were nearly to the Radley Place when Walter called, 'Hey, I'm comin'!'"(Lee 23).

4. "'Reckon I have," said Walter. "Almost died first year I come to school and et them pecans- folks say he pizened 'em and put 'em over on the school side of the fence'" (Lee 22).

3. Think about a particular situation that your character is involved in or witnesses.

Sample Question:

What is WALTER CUNNINGHAM thinking when Miss Caroline tries to give him a quarter for lunch?

3. While writing your response to the question, think about what Harper Lee wants you to gain from having insight on this character and make sure you incorporate that in your own writing.

Sample Writing

Walter looked straight ahead refusing to allow anyone to see the pangs of hunger that lingered with him. It took all of his will and might to humbly turn down Miss Caroline's offer. He knew if he accepted the money, he would not be able to repay her; and the thought of taking a hand out was a pain that would be far more severe than all the pangs of hunger had by the entire Cunningham family.

After the third time Walter shook his head no to Miss Caroline, he thought to himself, "I wish it were spring an' I were choppin' in the field so I dint have to be here right now. Miss Caroline just tryin' to be nice but I can't pay no quata back. Pa's been givin' the ex'ra crops to Mr. Finch... I am hangry but the Cunninghams don't take no charity. We hardworkin' folks, and we can git by just fine."

Assignment:

1. Write 1 page (1 full page) fictional narrative that responds to the prompt given to you and mimics the voice of the character. It may be easier to use a third person limited or omniscient point of view; however, be sure to use the voice of the character through internal dialogue.

3. The quotes and fictional narrative must be in MLA Format

Possible character questions:

-What was **Mayella Ewell** thinking about when Tom Robinson was testifying on the stand?

-What was **Tom Robinson** thinking when he heard the "guilty" verdict?

- What was **Mr. Underwood** thinking right before he wrote the article about Tom Robinson's death?
- What was **Tom Robinson** thinking in the moments before his death?
- What was Calpurnia thinking about while listening to the women talk at the women's missionary meeting?
- What was **Helen Robinson** thinking as she walked passed the Ewell property on her way to work?