

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD STUDY GUIDE - (PART I CH. 1-11)

CHAPTER ONE:

1. Where and when does the story take place?
2. Who is the narrator of the story and from what vantage point does she tell the story?
3. What characters do we meet in the first chapter?
4. What is Scout's father's occupation? Where is their mother?
5. What is unusual about the Radley house?
6. What is the true story behind Boo Radley?
7. What are some of the superstitions concerning Boo? What is he supposed to look like?
8. What quality does Dill add to the lives of Jem and Scout at this point?

CHAPTER TWO:

1. What do Scout and Harper Lee think of the educational system of Maycomb? Why?
2. Why does Miss Caroline become annoyed with Scout?
3. How has Scout learned to read and write?
4. How else does Scout get in trouble with the teacher?
5. What is Scout's real name?
6. What is the purpose of Miss Caroline in this chapter?

CHAPTER THREE:

Why was Scout beating up Walter Cunningham in the schoolyard?

When Jen invites Walter to lunch, why does it take Walter so long to make up his mind?

3. What is unusual about Scout's first grade class?
4. What are Cooties?
5. How does Scout treat Walter Cunningham at the dinner table?
6. What trick does Atticus teach Scout about getting along with people?
7. Describe Atticus' relationship with his children.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. What is the Dewey Decimal system? Has school improved any?
2. What does Scout find in the tree in the Radley front yard? What is the second thing they find?
3. What are some of the summertime games Dill, Jen, and Scout play?
4. Why is Scout fairly sure that Boo Radley is still alive inside his house?
5. Would Atticus approve of the game they play? Why?
6. What kind of relationship do Jen and Scout have with each other?

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Who is Miss Maudie Atkinson? What does she like to do?
2. What opinion does Miss Maudie have of Atticus?

CHAPTER SIX:

1. What is the children's plan for Dill's last night in town?
2. How does Jem lose his pants? How does he explain this?
3. Does Nathan Radley know who was in the backyard?
4. What does Jem feel that he has to do? How does Scout feel about this?
5. Does she understand the thinking of her brother? Why?

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. When does this chapter take place? How old are Jem and Scout now?
2. What remarkable thing does Jem tell Scout about the night he went back to get his pants?
3. What additional items do the children find in the tree?
4. How do they know that these things were intended for them?
5. What do they decide to do about the treasures they have found?
6. What do they then discover?
7. Do you think that Jem knows who has been putting the items in the tree? Why?
8. Why does Jem cry when he learns the hole has been cemented?

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. What unusual thing happens in Maycomb that year?
2. According to Mr. Avery, what causes this weather?
3. What projects do the children undertake?
4. How does Atticus react to this?
5. What happens to Miss Maudie's house?
6. How does Atticus react in the fire?
7. What happens to Scout as she watches the fire?
8. What kind of woman is Miss Maudie?
9. What is the purpose of all this action?

CHAPTER NINE:

1. Why does Scout get into a fight with Cecil Jacobs?
2. What is Atticus about to do which places his honor in question?
3. Why is Atticus defending the man?
4. What does Atticus say about the case? Does he expect to win the case?
5. How does this affect Scout?
6. What do the Finches do at Christmas?
7. Compare and contrast Uncle Jack and Atticus.
8. How does Aunt Alexandria feel about the way the children are being raised?

CHAPTER TEN:

1. What does Scout wish were different about Atticus?
2. What does Atticus say about Mockingbirds?
3. What does Miss Maudie say?
4. What does Atticus do to become a hero in the eyes of his children?

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. What kind of a woman is Mrs. Dubose?
2. How do the children feel about Mrs. Dubose?
3. What makes Jem so angry and what does he do?
4. What is his punishment for the act?
5. What does Atticus tell Jem after Mrs. Dubose dies?
6. What did Atticus want the children to learn from Mrs. Dubose?

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD STUDY GUIDE - (PART II and III CH. 12-31)

CHAPTER TWELVE:

1. How old are Jem and Scout at this point in the story? How are they getting along?
2. Where does Calpurnia take the children on Sunday?
3. Describe the Negro cemetery?
4. How are the kids accepted at church?
5. How is Calpurnia different at the church? Why?
6. What's unusual about the church?
7. What unpleasant surprise do the kids receive when they return home?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN:

1. How does Scout describe Aunt Alexandra on page 132?
2. What is a caste?
3. How does Aunt Alexandra judge people?
4. What is Scout's estimate as to what makes fine folks?
5. Why is Aunt Alexandra upset with Atticus at this point?
6. What does Atticus try to do?
7. What success does he have? How do Jem and Scout react to him?
8. What does he realize about himself?

CHAPTER FOURTEEN:

1. What does Aunt Alexandra suggest about Calpurnia? Why
2. Who is hiding in Jem and Scout's bedroom?
3. What does Jem do and how does this show the change in him?
4. What is the contrast between Scout's and Dill's home life?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN:

1. What two reasons could bring men to stand outside in the front yard instead of coming into the house?
2. What side does Aunt Alexandra take concerning the trial?
3. What phrase does Atticus repeat which
4. Why did Atticus sit in front of the courthouse all night?
5. What kind of people are in the mob? What do they want?
6. Why does Jem disobey his father?
7. How does Scout break up the mob? Whom does he talk to?
8. Where does a mob get its strength?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN:

1. What does Atticus say about a mob?
2. What does Atticus say about Mr. Cunningham?
3. According to Atticus, what did Scout make Mr. Cunningham do?
4. How does Miss Maudie feel about going to the trials?
5. How are the townspeople reacting to the trial?
6. What is unusual about Dolphus Raymond?
7. What does this make Scout wonder?
8. Because of the crowded conditions in the courthouse, where do Jem and Scout end up sitting?
9. Why are the people in the town still upset with Atticus?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: (The Trial)

1. What is the testimony of Heck Tate? What point does Atticus try to make?
2. What kind of people are the Ewell's?
3. In the dirty area in which they live, what is the one bright spot?
4. How are the Negroes homes contrasted to the Ewell's?
5. What is Bob Ewell's testimony?
6. What does Atticus try to establish about Bob Ewell?
7. How does he get him to do this?

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN:

1. What is Mayella's testimony?
2. How does Mayella react to Atticus' politeness?
3. What picture does Atticus try to paint of the Ewell family?
4. Where did Mayella get her testimony?
5. Does she ever slip up?
6. What does she do to get herself off the stand?
7. What is peculiar about Tom, which would have made it impossible for him to have grabbed and beaten Mayella?

CHAPTER NINETEEN:

1. What is Tom Robinson's version of what happened?
2. What observation about Mayella does Scout (Harper Lee) make on page 194?
3. What mistake does Tom make in his testimony?
4. Why was this wrong? What kind of a man is Tom?
5. Why was Dill so upset at this point?
6. When Scout says, "Well, Dill, after all he's just a Negro," what does this show about her?

CHAPTER TWENTY:

1. Why does Dolphus Raymond drink coke from a paper bag?
2. Why does he want people to think he's drunk?
3. Why does he tell the children?
4. Why does Atticus loosen his collar and take off his tie before he begins his summation?
5. Why does Atticus pity Mayella?

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE:

1. Why does Calpurnia come into the courtroom?
2. How does Jem feel about the jury and the verdict they will return with?
3. How does Scout know as soon as she sees the jury coming in that it has convicted Tom?
4. Why do all the Negroes stand as Atticus leaves?
5. Does Scout understand this?

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO:

1. Why does Jem cry as the children leave the court?
2. How do the Negro people continue to show their gratitude?
3. What does Jem mean in the speech that begins, "It's like being in a caterpillar, in a cocoon..."?
4. Why does Dill say he is going to be a clown when he grows up?

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE:

1. What happens that worries the children?
2. Why is Bob Ewell still bothering people?
3. Why doesn't Atticus strike back at Bob Ewell?
4. Which man on the jury took the longest to be convinced that Tom was guilty?
5. Why is that significant?
6. Why won't Aunt Alexandra allow Scout to have Walter Cunningham home for dinner?
7. What does Jem believe background is?
8. What does Jem say at the end of the chapter about understanding Boo Radley?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR:

1. Why does Scout attend her aunt's teas and meetings?
2. What is Harper Lee trying to show in this chapter?
3. What news is received of Tom Robinson?
4. According to Atticus, why was Tom trying to escape?
5. Does Aunt Alexandra change here at all? How?

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE:

1. What is the content of Mr. Underwood's editorial?
2. Can you say at this point why the book is titled as it is?

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX:

1. What confuses Scout about what her teacher says about not persecuting anyone?
2. Why is Jem so cross whenever the trial is referred to?

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN:

1. Why are the kids going to the school?
2. What does Scout mean when she says, "Thus began our longest journey together."

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT:

1. Who frightens the children on their way to the school?
2. Why does Scout have to wear the hen costume home?
3. What happens on the way home?
4. Who had attacked the children in the woods?
5. What happened to him?

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE:

1. Who is the man in the corner who had saved the children?
2. Why is it logical that he would be the one to save them?

CHAPTER THIRTY:

1. Whom does Atticus think stabbed Bob Ewell?
2. What does Heck Tate think?
3. What do the two men agree to? Why?
4. Does Scout understand this?
5. What does she say?

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE:

1. What does Scout mean when she says, "I would never lead him home?"
2. What does Scout do on the Radley porch after Boo goes in?
3. Does Scout ever see Boo again?
4. What does Scout mean when she says there was nothing left to learn except maybe algebra?