TKAM Study Guide

Chapter 5

20. Describe Miss Maudie Atkinson. How typical is she of Maycomb's women? What do the children think of her?

21. What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about Boo? How does this compare with what Scout already believes?

22. Scout claims that “Dill could tell the biggest ones” (lies) she ever heard. Why might Dill have told such lies?

23. What reasons does Atticus give for the children not to play the Boo Radley game? Do you think he is right? Why?

**\*For discussion**

1.come up with one question about the text for discussion

2.pick one important section to read for the class

3. Pick one word from the text that you did not understand.

Chapter 6

24. Why does Scout disapprove of Jem's and Dill's plan of looking in at one of the Radley's windows?

25. What does Mr. Nathan Radley know about the intruders in his garden? Why does Miss Stephanie refer to a “negro” over whose head Mr. Nathan has fired? What might this indicate?

26. Why does Dill's explanation of Jem's state of dress almost land him in trouble?

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Chapter 7

27. When Jem tells Scout about getting his trousers back, he tells her of something strange. What is this?

28. Can you find any evidence that Jem is beginning to understand more than Scout about Boo Radley? What do you think this is?

29. Does Jem still fear the gifts in the tree? Give reasons for your answer.

30. When the children plan to send a letter to the person who leaves the gifts, they are prevented. How does this happen? Who does it, and why might he do so?

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Chapter 8

31. Why does Scout quiz Atticus about his visit to the Radley house? How much does Atticus tell her?

32. What is the “near libel” which Jem puts in the front yard? How do Miss Maudie and Atticus react to it?

33. Why does Atticus save Miss Maudie's oak rocking chair?

34. When Atticus asks Scout about the blanket around her shoulders, what does Jem realize?

35. Explain what Atticus means by telling Jem not to let his discovery “inspire” him to “further glory”? Is there any reason why Jem might now do as his father says?

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Chapter 9

36. How well does Atticus feel he should defend Tom Robinson? Is it usual for (white) lawyers to do their best for black clients in Alabama at this time?

37. Scout and Jem have “mixed feelings” about Christmas? What are these feelings and why?

38. Uncle Jack Finch tells Scout that she is growing out of her pants. What does this mean and why might he say it?

39. When Francis talks to Scout he reveals an unpleasant feature of Aunt Alexandra. What is this?

40. Does Scout learn anything from overhearing Atticus's conversation with Uncle Jack? What might this be?

41. Read the final sentence of this chapter. Explain in your own words what it means and why it might be important in the story.

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Chapter 10

42. 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?

43. In this chapter Atticus tells his children that “it's a sin to kill a mockingbird”. What reason does he give for saying this?

44. Why does Heck Tate not want to shoot Tim Johnson?

45. 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?

46. 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?

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Chapter 11

47. How does Atticus advise Jem to react to Mrs. Dubose's taunts?

48. What does Mrs. Dubose say about the children's mother? How does Jem feel about this?

49. What request does Mrs. Dubose make of Jem? Is this a fair punishment for his “crime”?

50. Why do you think that Atticus makes Jem read to Mrs. Dubose? Why does Scout keep going with Jem?

51. Why, in Atticus's view, was Mrs. Dubose “a great lady”?

52. 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?

53. 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.

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Chapter 12

1. What observations does Scout make about Jem? Do you find what Scout is observing to be normal for someone Jem’s age?

2. Comment on Jem and Scout's visit to First Purchase church.

3. What new things does Scout learn here about how the African American people live?

4. What does Scout learn from Calpurnia's account of Zeebo's education?

5. Explain why Calpurnia speaks differently in the Finch household, and among her neighbors at church.

6. Come up with one question about the text for discussion

7. Pick one important section to read for the class

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Chapter 13

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay with Atticus and his family? What is she like?

2. Read the first two things Alexandra says when she comes to the Finch house. Are these typical of her or not?

3. Alexandra thinks Scout is “dull” (not clever). Why does she think this, and is she right? Are all adults good at knowing how clever young people are?

4. How does Aunt Alexandra involve herself in Maycomb's social life?

5. Comment on Aunt Alexandra's ideas about breeding and family. Why does Atticus tell them to forget it? Who is right, do you think?

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**Chapter 14**

1. Comment on Atticus's explanation of rape. How suitable is this as an answer to Scout?

2. Why does Alexandra think Atticus should dismiss Calpurnia? How does Atticus respond to the suggestion?

3. Why is Scout pleased when Jem fights her back? Why is she less pleased when he tells Atticus about Dill?

4. What do we learn from Dill's account of his running away?

5. Come up with one question about the text for discussion

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**Chapter 15**

1. What is the “nightmare” that now descends upon the children?

2. What was (and is) the Ku Klux Klan? What do you think of Atticus's comment about it?

3. How does Jem react when Atticus tells him to go home, and why?

4. What persuades the lynching-party to give up their attempt on Tom's life?

5. Comment on the way Scout affects events without realizing it at the time.

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**TKAM Study Chapter 16**

1. What “subtle change” does Scout notice in her father?

2. What sort of person is Dolphus Raymond?

3. How does Reverend Sykes help the children see and hear the trial? Is he right to do?

4. Comment on Judge Taylor's attitude to his job. Does he take the trial seriously or not?

5. Come up with one question about the text for discussion

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Chapter 17

76. What are the main points in Heck Tate's evidence? What does Atticus show in his cross- examination of Sheriff Tate?

77. What do we learn indirectly of the home life of the Ewell family in this chapter?

78. What do you learn from Bob Ewell's evidence?

79. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write out his name? What does the jury see when he does this?

Chapter 18

80. Is Mayella like her father or different from him? In what ways?

81. What might be the reason for Mayella's crying in the court?

82. How does Mayella react to Atticus's politeness? Is she used to people being polite?

83. How well does Mr. Gilmer prove Tom's guilt in the eyes of the reader (you) and in the eyes of the jury? Can you suggest why these might be different?