

CHAPTER 21

1. Why is Calpurnia upset with Jem for taking Scout with him to the trial? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. Explain why a jury would “never look at a defendant it has convicted” (240)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Why does Reverend Sykes tell Scout to stand up when her father passes? What does this suggest about the feelings of the African-American community towards Atticus? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4

CHAPTER 22

1. When Aunt Alexandra criticizes Atticus for allowing the children to attend the trial, how does he respond (243)? Explain what Atticus means by this. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. How does Miss Maudie express her respect for the Finch family? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Explain how the end of this chapter parallels the section with the mad dog in chapter 10. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 23

1. Why does Atticus think a jury of young people would have acquitted Tom? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. Summarize Scout’s and Jem’s points of view about the different kinds of people in the world. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
3. What insight has Jem’s experience given him about Boo? ELA-LIT.W.8.9

CHAPTER 24

1. Explain why Scout’s comment that “Immediately thereafter, the ladies adjourned for refreshments,” is an example of irony (261). ELA-LIT.RL.8.6
2. How do the women of the missionary circle behave in ways that contradict their Christian values? ELA-LIT.RL.8.6
3. Why does Atticus return home early? What does he say is especially tragic about what has happened? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 25

1. What does Scout’s comment about Jem suggest about gender roles in the 1930s South? (273) ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
2. What did Jem and Dill see Atticus and Calpurnia doing? How do you think this impacted them? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. What point was Mr. Underwood trying to make in his editorial? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3

CHAPTER 26

1. What do Scout’s feelings when passing the Radley place suggest about her character’s growth? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. What does it say about the values of the community that Atticus was re-elected without opposition? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Summarize the lesson that Miss Gates teaches about democracy and prejudice. What is ironic about this lesson? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 27

1. How are the three “out of the ordinary” things that happened in October related? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. What does Atticus mean when he says, “You tell Cecil I’m about as radical as Cotton Tom Heflin” (287)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
3. Find an example of foreshadowing in the last two pages of this chapter. What does it imply? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 28

1. Why do you think Lee has Scout and Jem hear a mockingbird on their way to the school auditorium? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. How does Lee create a suspenseful mood when Jem and Scout are walking home in the dark? ELA-LIT.RL.8.6
3. Who does Heck Tate find dead? Who do you think killed him? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 29

1. What evidence does Heck Tate find to suggest that Mr. Ewell was trying to kill Atticus’s children rather than just scare them? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. Compare Scout’s description of the attack on her (308-9) with Mayella’s account of being beaten in chapter 18. What do the similarities suggest? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
3. What details in the description of the stranger who saved Jem and Scout give her clues to his identity? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 30

1. What things does Scout do as she interacts with Boo that suggest that she has been impacted by ladies like Miss Maudie? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. Who does Atticus think killed Bob Ewell? Cite a quote to support your answer. ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
3. What does Mr. Tate say that lets Atticus and Scout know that Boo killed Mr. Ewell? Why does he want to keep it a secret? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1 ELA-LIT.RL.8.3

CHAPTER 31

1. Explain how standing on Boo’s porch helps Scout see through his eyes. ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. What do you think Scout means when she says, “As I made my way home, I thought Jem and I would get grown but there wasn’t much left for us to learn, except possibly algebra” (321)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Some critics have noted that Atticus Finch plays the role of a Christ figure. How does the novel draw on the Bible for theme, pattern of events, and character type? ELA-LIT.RL.8.9

This guide was written by Amy Jurskis.

Amy Jurskis holds a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia and a MAT from Agnes Scott College. A former department chair for language arts in a title one public school in Atlanta, she currently teaches English at a private academy in West Palm Beach, Florida.

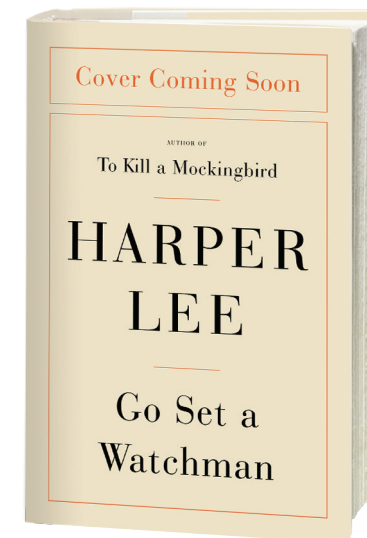
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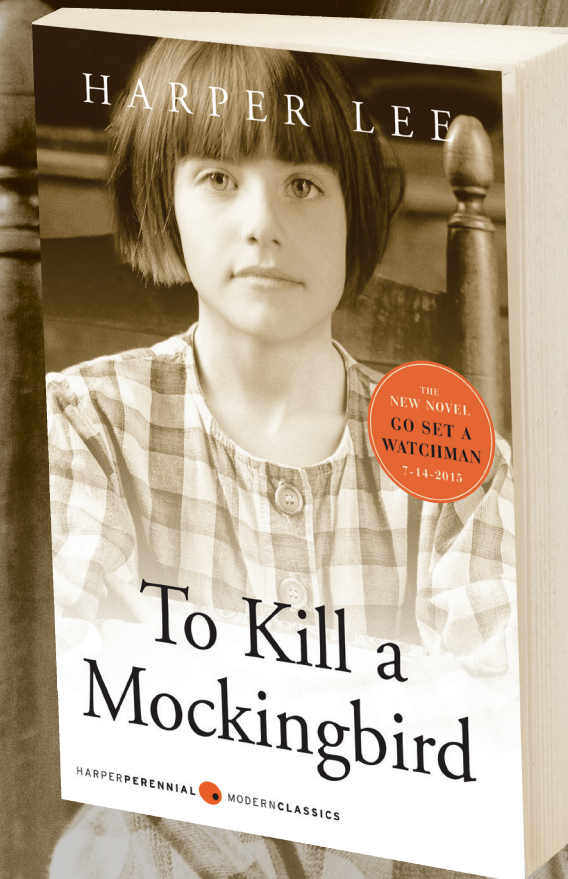
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ABOUT THE BOOK

One of the best-loved stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, is taught in classrooms throughout the world, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Harper Lee was born in 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. She attended Huntingdon College and studied law at the University of Alabama. She is the author of two novels, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*. Harper

Lee has been awarded numerous literary awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

A NOTE TO TEACHERS

Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, noted as an exemplar text by the Common Core State Standards, meets the standard for Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity for middle and high school. This guide is aligned to the Common Core standards for grade 8, but it is easily adaptable to a variety of grade levels.

Before you begin this unit, lead students in a research group activity by having them create a timeline of significant events that occurred between the Civil War and the civil rights movement. Post the timeline in your classroom and, as they read, help students place the events in *To Kill a Mockingbird* on the timeline. ELA-LIT.W.8.7

GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

ELA-LIT.W.8.10

CHAPTER 1

1. Is the narrator of the book an adult or a child? Quote from the text to support your answer. ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. Examine the description of Atticus Finch’s office (5). What does it reveal about his character? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Summarize what the children know about Boo Radley. Why do you think they are so interested in Boo? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 2

1. According to Scout, how was North Alabama different from Maycomb? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. What details in Scout’s description suggest that the Cunninghams are people of principle? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
3. What assumptions does Miss Caroline make about the students in her class and vice versa? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 3

1. Why does Scout beat up Walter? What does this reveal about Scout? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. Why does Calpurnia scold Scout? What does it reveal about her role in the Finch household? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
3. What do Atticus’s comments about the Ewell family and the law suggest about his view of justice? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 4

1. What is the first thing that Scout finds in the oak tree? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
2. How can you tell that Scout, Jem, and Dill all believe in superstitions? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
3. What game do the children invent? What does Atticus’s response suggest about his values? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 5

1. Does Miss Maudie believe the rumors about Boo Radley? Cite the text in your answer. ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
2. What plan that is related to Boo Radley do Dill and Jem devise? How does Atticus respond? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
3. Explain the “lawyer’s trick” that Atticus uses to get Jem to confess the truth about the children’s game. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 6

1. Whom does Nathan Radley accuse of trespassing? What do his neighbors’ reactions suggest about racial tension in the town? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. How does Jem lose his pants? Do you think Atticus believes his lie? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Why does Jem want to go back to get his pants? What does this tell you about his relationship with his father? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 7

1. What does Scout mean when she says she “tried to climb in Jem’s skin and walk around in it”(65)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
2. Who do you think mended Jem’s pants? Why? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
3. What is the significance of the objects Jem and Scout find in the tree in this chapter? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 8

1. Scout uses racist language in this chapter. Does she seem to be a racist? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4 ELA-LIT.L.8.5
2. Scout describes being woken up in the middle of the night (78). What specific sounds is she describing? What makes this an effective use of imagery? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
3. How does the town help Miss Maudie? What does this say about the role of the community in Maycomb? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 9

1. How does Atticus respond when Scout repeats the racist language that she heard at school? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
2. Explain why Atticus takes the case. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
3. What does Atticus ask Scout to do when people talk badly about him? Will this be difficult for her? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
4. What details of Finch Landing suggest the family owned slaves? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 10

1. Summarize Scout’s criticisms of her father and what they reveal about how her town defines “manliness.” ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. According to Atticus, why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
3. What does Miss Maudie reveal about Atticus’s old nickname? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3

CHAPTER 11

1. What does Atticus do that causes Scout to observe, “It was times like this when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man that ever lived”(116)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. What does Jem offer to do as a way of apologizing to Mrs. Dubose? What is her response? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
3. According to Atticus, why do some people use hateful language? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 12

1. Visualize the political cartoon of Atticus (Hint: it may help to draw the cartoon). What is the cartoon saying about him? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. Cite specific evidence that suggests Calpurnia’s ancestors may have been enslaved (141-142). ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
3. How does Calpurnia explain her reason for adjusting her language in different settings? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 13

1. Summarize Scout’s view of her county’s history and culture. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. How does Aunt Alexandra believe Atticus has failed as a parent? Do you agree? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
3. What do you think Scout means when she says, “I know now what he was trying to do, but Atticus was only a man. It takes a woman to do that kind of work”(152)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3

CHAPTER 14

1. Does Scout understand Atticus’s response to her question about rape? ELA-LIT.W.8.9
2. What is Scout referring to when she says that Jem “rose and broke the remaining code of our childhood”(159)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. How can you tell that Scout is trying to see things from other people’s perspectives? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 15

1. According to Scout, what is Atticus’s “dangerous question” (166)? Why is it dangerous? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
2. What details does Lee use to create a tense mood during the confrontation in front of the jail? ELA-LIT.RL.8.6
3. What do you think would have happened if the children had not shown up? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3

CHAPTER 16

1. Explain how Jem, Scout, and Dill made Walter stand in Atticus’s shoes? (179) ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. Where do the Finch children sit to watch the trial? Why is this significant? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. Has Tom Robinson been given a “jury of his peers”? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 17

1. What did Atticus ask about during his cross-examination? Why do you think he asked these questions? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. What is ironic about Scout’s observation of the “little man on the witness stand” (195)? ELA-LIT.RL.8.6
3. Why did Atticus teach Scout that lawyers should never ask a witness a question that they don’t know the answer to? ELA-LIT.W.8.9

CHAPTER 18

1. What does Scout’s comparison of Mayella to “a steady-eyed cat with a twitchy tail”(206) suggest? ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
2. What does her belief that Atticus is making fun of her imply about the way Mayella is used to being treated? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
3. What question does Mayella have a difficult time answering? Why? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1

CHAPTER 19

1. Explain why Tom’s testimony makes Scout feel sympathetic towards both Tom and Mayella. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2
2. What does Tom say that outrages the white people in attendance? Why is this so offensive to them? ELA-LIT.RL.8.1
3. Why does Tom say he ran from authorities in spite of his innocence? ELA-LIT.RL.8.2

CHAPTER 20

1. Why do you think Atticus unbuttons his vest, loosens his tie, and takes off his coat before he addresses the jury? ELA-LIT.RL.8.3
2. Consider both the connotative and denotative meanings of Atticus’s statement that “This case is as simple as black and white”(231). ELA-LIT.RL.8.4
3. Summarize Atticus’s belief about equality. ELA-LIT.RL.8.2