

Pre-Ap English I and II Summer Reading Assignment

To Kill a Mockingbird

Please read and annotate (take notes on characters, theme, symbols, meaningful quotes etc.) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Below are chapter questions. Please choose **ONE** question from each chapter grouping and answer the question thoroughly using the RACE strategy (explained below).

- Restate the question as a statement.
- Answer the question.
- Use direct evidence from the text to support your answer.
- Explain how the evidence supports your answer.

This assignment may be neatly handwritten or typed and is due the first day of class. Please email Mrs. Lietz at vlietz@gpa-nb.org with any questions.

Chapter 1:

1. Describe the narrator of the novel.
2. How does the choice of narrator determine the tone of the narrative?
3. Comment on Scout's relationship with her father, as revealed in this chapter.
4. What do we learn about the setting of this novel in this initial chapter?
5. What 'unforgivable' act do the Radleys commit, which makes the town suspicious of them?
6. Who is Boo Radley?
7. "Miss Stephanie Crawford said she woke up in the middle of the night one time and saw him looking straight through the window at her ... said his head was like a skull lookin' at her."
 1. Do you think that this is true? Explain why or why not.
 2. How and why have the people of Maycomb demonized Boo Radley?
 3. Why are the children particularly intrigued by Boo's story?

Chapter 2-3:

1. Does Scout's first day at school live up to her expectations? Explain why or why not.
2. What do we learn about the socioeconomic situation of the people of Maycomb, in chapters two and three?
3. What is your first impression of Miss Caroline? Do you think that she is a good teacher? Explain why or why not.
4. In response to Scout's troublesome day, Atticus says: "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." In your own words, explain what he means.
5. What is your opinion of Atticus' parenting style?
6. Who are the Ewells and how are they different from the rest of Maycomb society?

Chapters 4-6:

1. How is Miss Maudie's view of Boo Radley different to ones we have previously heard?
2. Miss Maudie says: "Why, one sprig of nut grass can ruin a whole yard. Look here. When it comes fall this dries up and the wind blows it all over Maycomb County!" How might this be a metaphor for society?

3. Scout claims that Dill tells “the biggest ones”. What motive might he have for telling such lies?
4. In your own words, explain why Atticus tells the children to stop playing games about Boo Radley’s life. Do you think he was right to do so? Explain why or why not.
5. Why does Mr. Radley think that he was shooting at a “negro” in his garden? What does this tell us about the society in which they live?
6. How is Jem and Scout’s relationship changing?

Chapters 7-8:

1. What evidence is there in the text to support the notion that Scout learns from the advice she is given?
2. When Jem goes back to retrieve his pants from the Radley yard, what is surprising about what he finds? Who do you think is responsible for this surprise?
3. Explain why Miss Maudie laughs when Scout uses the word ‘morphodite’ to describe the snowman. How does this add to the narrator’s childlike tone?
4. Why do Jem and Atticus decide to *not* return the blanket to Boo Radley after the fire?
5. By the end of chapter 8, what is your opinion of Boo Radley? How has it changed from chapter 1?

Chapters 9-11:

1. What is ‘*Maycomb’s usual disease*’? How are we introduced to it in chapter 9?
2. The last line of chapter 9 reads, “... *it was not until many years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said.*” Explain what Scout means and expound on Atticus’s parenting style.
3. How is the title of the novel explained in chapter 10?
4. How are Scout and Jem’s perceptions of their father changed by the episode with the mad dog?
5. Why did Jem have to read to Mrs. Dubose? Do you think that the punishment was appropriate?
6. Why, according to Atticus, why was Mrs. Dubose ‘*a great lady*’?

Chapters 12-14:

1. What evidence is there that Jem is growing up?
2. When the children go to First Purchase church, they learn a lot more about Calpurnia.
 1. What do they learn?
 2. They have known her a long time, yet never knew these things – why?
3. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay?
4. In your own words, explain Aunt Alexandra’s opinion on breeding and family. Do you agree with her thoughts? Explain why or why not.
5. Why do you think Aunt Alexandra refuses to allow Scout to visit Calpurnia’s home?

Chapters 15-16:

1. What is the ‘nightmare’ that has descended upon the children?
2. Why does the mob turn up at the jail? What is their intention?
3. How does Scout manage to defuse the situation outside the jail without even realizing it?
4. Why do you think that so many people want to attend the trial?
5. We see that the jury is made up of farmers – is this significant?
6. Does Judge Taylor take his job seriously? Explain your answer fully.

Chapters 17-19:

1. How has Harper Lee set the reader up to be predisposed to distrust the Ewells’ testimony?
2. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name while on the stand?
3. In the way Mayella behaves on the witness stand, what evidence is there that she is lying?
4. Do you pity Mayella? Explain why or why not.
5. How is Tom Robinson disabled and why is this significant?
6. How is Tom’s version of events different from Mayella’s?
7. What is the ‘*subtlety of Tom’s predicament*’ as Scout sees it?
8. Why does Dill start crying in the courtroom?

Chapters 20-21:

1. What do you make of Mr. Dolphus Raymond? Do you think that his approach to dealing with racism is the correct one?
2. In your opinion, does the state present sufficient evidence of Tom's guilt?
3. Does Atticus pity Mayella? Explain your answer with close reference to the text.
4. Explain the comparison Scout makes between the waiting courtroom and the episode with the mad dog.
5. The jury take a long time deliberating their verdict – why is this significant?
6. Why does Reverend Sykes insist that Scout stand when her father is passing?

Chapters 22-23:

1. Why is it significant that Judge Taylor assigned Tom Robinson's case to Atticus? What do we learn about the judge from this?
2. Why does Atticus not mind that Bob Ewell spat in his face? What does this reveal about his character?
3. Why is Jem so keen on getting rid of the jury systems?
4. Find three quotations from chapters 22 and 23 which link to the theme of womanhood and Scout's exploration of her feminine identity.
5. "*I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time... it's because he wants to stay inside.*" – What does Jem mean by this and how has he come to this realization?

Chapters 24-26:

1. In what way are the people of Maycomb hypocritical?
2. Is your opinion of Aunt Alexandra changing at all? Give a reason for your answer.
3. How does Tom die?
4. How does Tom's death link to the title of the novel?
5. How do people in Maycomb react to the news of Tom's death?
6. According to Scout, what is the difference between the court where Tom was tried and "*the secret courts of men's hearts*"?

Chapters 27-28:

1. What three things does Bob Ewell do which alarm Aunt Alexandra?
2. In terms of the plot structure, in what way is the attack on the children foreshadowed?
3. In your own words, describe the details of the attack.
4. How does Jem's broken arm bring the novel full circle? How has Jem changed since the start?
5. How does Bob Ewell die? Do you think that he deserved to die?

Chapters 29-31:

1. In what way is Arthur Radley different to whom the children thought he was?
2. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife? Is this what really happened?
3. Heck Tate says that the switchblade he has came from a drunken man in town. Is this in any way suspicious? Where else could it have come from?
4. How does the story of *The Gray Ghost* resonate with the themes of the novel?
5. How does Scout show her maturity in these last few chapters? You must mention at least two things.

