

To Kill a Mockingbird: Anticipation Guide

Directions: Before reading the story, read the statements below and decide if you agree or disagree with each statement. For each statement, mark an X in the appropriate blank in the *Before Reading* column. *After* we have discussed the novel *as a class*, we will go back and mark an X in the appropriate blank in the *After Reading* column to show whether or not your views are influenced by the story.

Before Reading

Agree/Disagree

_____ / _____

Reasons:

_____ / _____

Reasons:

_____ / _____

Reasons:

_____ / _____

Reasons:

_____ / _____

Reasons:

_____ / _____

Reasons:

After Reading

Agree / Disagree

_____ / _____

1. All men are created equal.

_____ / _____

2. Nobody is all bad or all good.

_____ / _____

3. A hero is born, not made.

_____ / _____

4. No one is above the law.

_____ / _____

5. Under our justice system, all citizens are treated fairly in our courts of law.

_____ / _____

6. When the law does not succeed in punishing criminals, citizens should do so.

To Kill a Mockingbird: A Historical Context

Although Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird is a work of fiction, the story is based on and set in a historically accurate context. In order to appreciate the novel's setting and recognize its relevance today, you must understand this time period.

A. Use the websites below to answer questions (on the back) regarding the novel's controversy, the Great Depression, Jim Crow Laws, the Scottsboro Trials, and the Civil Rights Movement. Please condense each response to at least one and no more than three sentences. We will refer to all of these topics when we discuss To Kill a Mockingbird.

B. Type or neatly write your answers as a separate word document from the study guide questions.

Controversy

ALA -- <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bbwlinks/100mostfrequently.htm>

"Books Under Fire" -- <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=36&ar=566>

1. Where does the novel appear on the 100 Most Frequently Challenged book list?
2. Name two other titles that you were surprised to find on this list.
3. A challenge occurs when someone attempts to remove a book from school curriculums and libraries; if the material is removed, it is considered banned. Why has To Kill a Mockingbird been challenged?
4. Why do others disagree with this challenge?

The Great Depression

Overview -- <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/depression/depression.htm>

Photographs -- <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/fsowcap.html>

5. Look at some photographs from the Great Depression. Describe one and explain why it has an impact on you.
6. When did the Great Depression occur?
7. Why did the Great Depression occur?
8. Who was president when the depression started, and who was president during the New Deal?
9. Based on what you're read, what was the purpose of the New Deal?

Jim Crow Laws/Segregation

History -- <http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/home.htm>

Laws -- <http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/what.htm>

Scottsboro Trials -- <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm>

10. What was the purpose of Jim Crow Laws?
11. Put at least two of these laws into your own words.
12. Click on the link to the Scottsboro Trial. Read about the trial and then briefly summarize both the accusations and the outcome.

The Civil Rights Movement

<http://www.watson.org/~lisa/blackhistory/civilrights-55-65/>

13. When was the Civil Rights Movement?
14. This site lists seven aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. Choose one and write at least one sentence summarizing your assigned aspect.

To Kill a Mockingbird STUDY GUIDE

DIRECTIONS: Type your first and last name in the upper right hand corner of a word document, then answer the following questions with thought and detail. Write in complete sentences and incorporate the question into your response. Remember, if your last name begins with the letter A-L, you will answer all ODD questions; if your last name begins with M-Z, you will answer all EVEN questions.

****Note:** If you use the electronic version of the study guide document (found at the Annandale High School website (<http://www.fcps.edu/AnnandaleHS/>) and type your answers directly under each question, you DO NOT need the question incorporated into your answers.

Chapter 1:

1. What point-of-view is the story told in?
2. What is the name of the town where the novel is set?
3. The narrator goes by the nickname "Scout." What is her real name?
4. What does the narrator's father do for a living?
5. What happened to Jem and Scout's mother?
6. Who is Calpurnia? How do the Finches treat her? Explain.
7. Who is Dill?
8. Who is Boo Radley? Explain the children's perception of Boo. Be specific.
9. What courageous act does Jem perform at the end of this chapter?

Chapters 2-3:

10. What does Miss Caroline tell the narrator that she can no longer do with Atticus?
11. What compromise does Atticus make with the narrator after hearing about this?
12. The Cunninghams are considered "poor but proud." What is meant by this?
13. Why does Miss Caroline tell Burris Ewell to go home?
14. Miss Caroline, like the reader, is new to Maycomb. What lesson does she quickly learn from her students?
15. How is Calpurnia a good influence on Scout?

Chapters 4-5:

16. Name two things the children find in the knothole of the oak tree.
17. Describe the new game the kids start to play.
18. Name two reasons why Scout wants to stop playing this new game.
19. How does Miss Maudie feel about Arthur "Boo" Radley?

Chapter 6:

20. How does Jem lose his trousers?
21. Why doesn't Scout want Jem to go back to retrieve his pants?

Chapter 7-8

22. When Jem sneaks out of the house to retrieve his pants, what does he find that puzzles him?
23. Why does Nathan Radley tell the children he sealed the knothole shut with cement? Do you believe him? Why or why not? Support your response with a specific detail from the novel.
24. What happens in chapter eight that rarely happens in Alabama?

25. In chapter eight, why does Atticus drag the children out of bed in the middle of the night?
26. Who drapes the blanket around the narrator?
27. What conclusions are you beginning to draw about Boo?

Chapter 9:

28. Why does Scout beat up Cecil Jacobs?
29. Who is Atticus' latest client? Why has Atticus decided to defend this man?
30. When Cecil taunts Scout on the playground again, why does she walk away?
31. Francis upsets Scout when he says that no one wants Dill. Why is this a hypocritical statement from Francis?
32. What does Scout do to cause Uncle Jack to reprimand her on Christmas at her Aunt Alexandra's house?
33. What does Uncle Jack learn from Scout?

Chapter 10:

34. Jem and Scout are somewhat disappointed that Atticus is not as athletic as some other fathers. What happens to change their minds?
35. Why do Miss Maudie and Atticus tell the children it is a sin to kill a mockingbird? Basically, explain what this means.

Chapter 11:

36. What did Jem do to Mrs. Dubose?
37. Why does Jem do this to Mrs. Dubose?
38. Because of this, what does Jem have to do every day for a month?
39. After Mrs. Dubose dies, what do the children learn about her?
40. What does Mrs. Dubose leave for Jem?
41. Why does Atticus think she left this for Jem?
42. How does Atticus define courage? Be specific.
43. Name two characters who exhibit this courage. Explain.

Chapter 12-14:

44. Where does Calpurnia take Jem and Scout?
45. Why is Lula upset that Calpurnia has brought Jem and Scout?
46. Why is everyone else happy that Jem and Scout are there?
47. How do we see segregation in chapter 12?
48. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay with the Finches?
49. How does Aunt Alexandra feel about Calpurnia? Explain.
50. At the end of chapter 13, Atticus lectures the children using Aunt Alexandra's words instead of his own. Scout cries, and Atticus tells the kids to forget everything he has just said. What does this show about Atticus' character?
51. In chapter 14, what does Jem do that makes Scout refer to him as a "traitor"?
52. Why did Dill *really* run away?
53. At the end of chapter 14, Scout wonders why Boo Radley never ran away. What does this statement reveal about her new perceptions of Boo?

Chapter 15:

54. Why does Scout find it strange when Atticus takes the car to his office late at night?
55. Why does Jem decide to follow him?
56. Where do the children find Atticus?

57. Why do you think Scout's nervous rambling causes the mob to disperse?
58. Who do the children hear asking Atticus if the mob is gone?
59. Who had Atticus' back?
60. Why does Dill ask to carry Atticus' chair?
61. How does Scout know that Jem is not in trouble for disobeying Atticus?

Chapter 16:

62. How does Atticus explain the mob's behavior?
63. Describe Mr. Delphos Raymond. Include why some of his neighbors do not agree with his lifestyle.
64. Where do the children sit during the trial? Why is this significant?

Chapter 17-18:

65. Summarize what is revealed during Sheriff Heck Tate's testimony.
66. What do you think of Bob Ewell?
67. Summarize what is revealed during Bob Ewell's Testimony. What is Atticus trying to prove?
68. Does Mayella seem like a reliable witness? Why or why not? Be specific

Chapters 19-21:

69. What evidence does Atticus use to show that Tom Robinson could not have beat Mayella up?
70. Who does Atticus think harmed Mayella?
71. Summarize Tom Robinson's side of the story.
72. Why does Mr. Gilmer act upset when Tom Robinson says he felt sorry for Mayella?
73. Why is Dill so upset?
74. When Scout and Dill leave the courtroom, what truth is revealed about Mr. Dolphus Raymond? Explain.
75. What is the verdict?
76. At the end of chapter 21, Reverend Sykes says, "Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passin'." Why is this so significant?
77. Reflect on your research regarding Jim Crow Laws and the Scottsboro Trials. How do these chapters fit into this historical context?

Chapters 22-23

78. Why is Jem so devastated by the verdict?
79. What do Tom Robinson's friends and family leave for Atticus? Why doesn't Atticus want them to send gifts?
80. Despite the guilty verdict, why does Miss Maudie tell the children that Maycomb County has taken a baby step?
81. What did Bob Ewell do to Atticus? How does Atticus respond? What does this reveal about Atticus' character?
82. How does Atticus attempt to explain the trial to a disillusioned Jem?
83. Carefully read the last page of chapter 23. Why do you think Jem seems so jaded? Jem thinks Scout's words to the contrary reflect her innocence and naiveté. How do her words also reflect her maturity?
84. At the end of chapter 23, Jem forms a new theory about why Boo Radley has never left his house in years. What is his theory?

Chapter 24-25:

85. Miss Maudie feels the ladies at Aunt Alexandra's Missionary Tea are hypocrites. Explain their hypocrisy.
86. Why do the prison guards claim they had to shoot Tom Robinson? Why doesn't this explanation make sense?
87. Why doesn't Jem want Scout to kill the roly-poly? How does this brief incident relate to major events and themes in the novel?
88. Mr. Underwood's editorial likens Tom's death to the senseless killing of songbirds. Think about what it means to kill a mockingbird. How does the mockingbird symbolize Tom Robinson?
89. Why is it so significant that Mr. Underwood wrote this editorial? What does this show?

Chapters 26-27:

90. After Cecil Jacobs brings in a current event about Adolf Hitler, what does Miss Gates teach the children about the United States of America?
91. Why does Scout think Miss Gates is a hypocrite?
92. Who else is Bob Ewell harassing? How so?
93. What will Scout be dressed as in the Halloween Pageant?

Chapter 28-31

94. Why does Mrs. Merriweather think that Scout has ruined her show?
95. Why does Scout wear her costume home?
96. How does this affect her understanding of what happens next?
97. Who is after the children?
98. Who saves the children?
99. What does Aunt Alexandra bring Scout to put on after the attack? Why is this so significant?
100. At first, who does Atticus think killed the attacker?
101. What explanation does Sheriff Heck Tate give for the attacker's death?
102. Who does Sheriff Heck Tate infer he is protecting with the above explanation?
103. What does Scout say it would be like if they turned this man in for murder? What does she mean by this?
104. When Scout walks Boo Radley home, through whose eyes does she see the neighborhood?
105. Scout feels that Boo Radley has given her so much, but she feels guilty that she has not returned the favor. How is she wrong? (What have Jem and Scout given Boo?)
106. Why is the story Atticus reads to Scout at end of the novel so fitting?
107. Reread the first paragraph of chapter one. Which questions have been answered?