**To Kill a Mockingbird** Study Guide Questions**— Chapters 1 – 6** Name:

Chapter 1

1. What do you learn in this chapter about Atticus Finch and his family?
2. What do you learn about Dill’s character?
3. What, briefly, has happened to Arthur “Boo” Radley?
4. Why does the Radley place fascinate Scout, Jem, and Dill?

Chapter 2

1. Why is Scout looking forward to starting school?
2. Why does Jem not want anything to do with Scout at school?
3. What do you think of Miss Caroline Fisher as a teacher? Why?

Chapter 3

1. Who is Calpurnia? What is her place in the Finch household?
2. What is Walter Cunningham like? What does his behavior during lunch suggest about his home life?
3. How does Atticus treat Walter?
4. What do you learn in this chapter about the Ewells?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**

Study Guide Questions **Chaps. 1-6**, p.2

Chapter 4

1. What superstitions do the children have in connection with the Radley house?
2. What game do they play (connected to the Radleys)?
3. What might be the cause of the laughter from inside the house?

Chapter 5

1. What do the children think of Miss Maudie Atkinson?
2. What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about Boo? How does this compare with what Scout already believes?
3. What reasons does Atticus give for the children not to play the Boo Radley game?

Chapter 6

1. Why does Scout disapprove of Jem’s and Dill’s plan to look in one of the Radleys’ window?
2. What does Mr. Nathan Radley know about the intruders in his garden?
3. Why does Dill’s explanation of Jem’s state of dress almost land him in trouble?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 3 – **Chapters 7 -11**

Chapter 7

1. When Jem tells Scout about getting his trousers back, he tells her of something strange. What is this?
2. Does Jem still fear the gifts in the tree? Give a reason for your answer.
3. When the children plan to send a letter to the person who leaves the gifts, they are prevented. Who does it, and why might he do so?

Chapter 8

1. Why does Scout quiz Atticus about his visit to the Radley house? How much does Atticus tell her?
2. When Atticus asks Scout about the blanket around her shoulders, what does Jem realize?
3. Explain what Atticus means by telling Jem not to let his discovery “inspire” him to “further glory.”

Chapter 9

1. Scout and Jem have “mixed feelings” about Christmas? What are these feelings and why?
2. When Francis talks to Scout, he reveals an unpleasant feature of Aunt Alexandra. What is this?
3. Does Scout learn anything from overhearing Atticus’s conversation with Uncle Jack? What might this be?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 4 – **Chapters 7 -11**

Chapter 10

1. In this chapter Atticus tells his children that “it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” What reason does he give for saying this?
2. Why does Heck Tate not want to shoot Tim Johnson?
3. Jem and Scout have different views about telling people at school how well Atticus can shoot. Explain this difference.

Chapter 11

1. How does Atticus advise Jem to react to Mrs. Dubose’s taunts?
2. What request does Mrs. Dubose make of Jem? Is this a fair punishment for his “crime”?
3. Why, in Atticus’s view, was Mrs. Dubose “a great lady”?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 5 – **Chapters 12 - 15**

Chapter 12

1. Comment on Jem’s and Scout’s visit to First Purchase church.
2. What does Scout learn from Calpurnia’s account of Zeebo’s education?
3. Explain why Calpurnia speaks differently in the Finch household than she does among her neighbors at church.

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](javascript:%20%7balert('%20\'Put%20my%20bag%20in%20the%20front%20bedroom,%20Calpurnia\'%20and%20\'Jean%20Louise,%20stop%20scratching%20your%20head\'.%20')%7d) 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?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 6 **– Chapters 12 – 15**

##### Chapter 14

1. Why does Alexandra think Atticus should dismiss Calpurnia? How does Atticus respond to the suggestion?
2. Why is Scout pleased when Jem fights her back? Why is she less pleased when he tells Atticus about Dill?
3. What do we learn from Dill's account of his running away?

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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](javascript:%20%7balert('%20The%20Ku%20Klux\'s%20gone.%20It\'ll%20never%20come%20back.%20')%7d) 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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**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 7 – **Chapters 16 - 19**

##### 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?

##### Chapter 17

1. What are the main points in Heck Tate's evidence? What does Atticus show in his [cross-examination](javascript:%20%7balert('%20Asking%20questions%20of%20a%20witness%20who%20has%20given%20evidence%20for%20the%20other%20side%20')%7d) of Sheriff Tate?
2. What do we learn indirectly of the home life of the Ewell family in this chapter?
3. What do you learn from Bob Ewell's evidence?
4. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write out his name? What does the jury see when he does this?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 8 – **Chapters 16-19**

##### Chapter 18

1. Is Mayella like her father or different from him? In what ways?
2. What might be the reason for Mayella's crying in the court?
3. How does Mayella react to Atticus's politeness? Is she used to people being polite?
4. 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?

##### Chapter 19

1. What made Tom visit the Ewell's house in the first place?
2. Why does Scout think that Mayella Ewell was “the loneliest person in the world”?
3. In your own words explain Mayella's relationship with her father.
4. How does Dill react to this part of the trial? Why is this, in your opinion?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 9 – **Chapters 20-22**

##### Chapter 20

1. Scout says that “Mr. Dolphus Raymond was an evil man”. Is she right?
2. In most states of the USA people who drink alcohol in public places are required to hide their bottle in a paper bag. Why does Dolphus Raymond hide Coca-Cola in a bag?
3. What, according to Atticus, is the thing that Mayella has done wrong?
4. Explain, in your own words, Atticus's views on people's being equal.

##### Chapter 21

1. What does Jem expect the verdict to be? Does Atticus think the same?
2. What is unusual about how long it takes the jury to reach a verdict? Is the verdict predictable or not?
3. As Scout waits for the verdict, she thinks of earlier events. What are these and how do they remind us of the novel's central themes?

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**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 10 – **Chapters 20-22**

##### Chapter 22

1. Although Atticus did not want his children in court, he defends Jem's right to know what has happened. Explain, in your own words, Atticus's reasons for this. (Look at the speech beginning, “This is their home, sister”.
2. Miss Maudie tells Jem that “things are never as bad as they seem”. What reasons does she give for this view?
3. Why does Dill say that he will be a clown when he grows up? Do you think he would keep this ambition for long?
4. This story is set in the 1930s but was published in 1960. Have attitudes to racism remained the same (in the USA and the UK) or have there been any changes (for the better or worse) since then, in your view?
5. Why does Bob Ewell feel so angry with Atticus? Do you think his threat is a real one, and how might he try to “get” Atticus?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 11 – **Chapters 23-24**

##### Chapter 23

1. What do you think of Atticus's reaction to Bob Ewell's challenge? Should he have ignored Bob, retaliated or done something else?
2. What is “circumstantial evidence”? What has it got to do with Tom's conviction?
3. Why does Aunt Alexandra accept that the Cunninghams may be good but are not “our kind of folks”? Do you think that people should mix only with others of the same social class? Are class-divisions good or bad for societies?
4. At the end of this chapter, Jem forms a new theory about why Boo Radley has never left his house in years. What is this? How likely is it to be true, in your opinion?

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**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 12 – **Chapters 23-24**

##### Chapter 24

1. Do you think the missionary ladies are sincere in worrying about the “Mrunas” (a tribe in Africa)? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Compare the reactions of Miss Maudie and the other ladies when Scout says she is wearing her “britches” under her dress.
3. What is your opinion of the Maycomb ladies, as depicted in this chapter?
4. Explain briefly how Tom was killed. What is Atticus's explanation for Tom's attempted escape. Do you think agree with Atticus?
5. How, in this chapter, do we see Aunt Alexandra in a new light? How does Miss Maudie support her?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 13 **– Chapters 25-27**

##### Chapter 25

1. How does Maycomb react to the news of Tom's death?
2. Comment on the idea that Tom's death was “typical”?
3. Explain the contrast Scout draws between the court where Tom was tried and “the secret courts of men's hearts”. In what way are hearts like courts?
4. Why did Jem not want Scout to tell Atticus about Bob Ewell's [comment](javascript:%20%7balert('%20\'One%20down%20and%20about%20two%20more%20to%20go\'%20')%7d)? Was this a wise thing to ask her to do?

##### Chapter 26

1. In her lesson on Hitler, Miss Gates says that “we (American people) don't believe in persecuting anyone”. What seems odd to the reader about this claim?
2. Why is Scout puzzled by Miss Gates' disapproval of Hitler?
3. Why does Scout's question upset Jem? Is there a simple answer, or any answer, to the question (“How can you hate Hitler an’ then turn around an be ugly about folks right at home?”

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**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 14 – **Chapters 25-27**

##### Chapter 27

1. What three things does Bob Ewell do that alarm Aunt Alexandra?
2. Why, according to Atticus, does Bob Ewell bear a grudge? Which people does Ewell see as his enemies, and why?
3. What was the purpose of the Halloween pageant? What practical joke had persuaded the grown-ups to have an organized event?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 15 – **Chapters 28-31**

##### Chapter 28

1. Comment on the way this chapter reminds the reader of earlier events in the novel.
2. Why does Jem say that Boo Radley must not be at home? What is ironic about this? (Is it true? Does he really mean it? Why might it be important for him and Scout that Boo should not be at home?)
3. Scout decides to keep her costume on while walking home. How does this affect her understanding of what happens on the way?
4. Why had Atticus not brought a chair for the man in the corner? Who might this stranger be?

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##### Chapter 29

1. What causes the “shiny clean line” on the otherwise “dull wire” of Scout's costume?

1. What explanation does Atticus give for Bob Ewell's attack?
2. What does Heck Tate give as the reason for the attack?
3. Do you think the sheriff's explanation or Atticus's is the more likely to be true?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 16 **– Chapters 28-31**

##### Chapter 30

1. Who does Atticus think caused Bob Ewell's death?
2. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell's death was self-inflicted? In what way is this partly true?
3. Is Heck Tate right to spare Boo then publicity of an inquest? Give reasons for your answer.
4. How does the writer handle the appearance, at the end of the story, of Boo Radley?

##### Chapter 31

1. How do the events of the final chapters explain the first sentence in the whole novel?
2. Comment on the way the writer summarizes earlier events to show their siginificance.
3. How does Scout make sense of an earlier remark of Atticus's as she stands on the Radley porch?
4. How much of a surprise is it to find what Boo Radley is really like? Has the story before this point prepared the reader for this discovery?

**To Kill a Mockingbird**  Name:

Study Guide Questions, p. 17 – **Chapters 28-31**

1. At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout. Comment on his choice of story. Does it have any connection with themes earlier in the novel and in its ending?