

## Reading Questions: To Kill A Mockingbird

### Directions:

- ❑ Before reading each chapter, review these questions to help set your reading purpose.
- ❑ Answer all questions in complete sentences.

### Chapter 1

1. Who are the members of the Finch family?
2. Where in the United States is Maycomb?
3. How would you describe the town of Maycomb?
4. Who is Dill?
5. What happened to Boo Radley?
6. Why are the kids so interested in the Radley place?

### Chapter 2

1. Describe Miss Caroline's style of teaching.
2. Why does Scout get in trouble at school?
3. What does Scout try to explain to Miss Caroline about Walter Cunningham?
4. Choose one sentence from the chapter that tells you something important about Scout's personality. Copy it down and explain what it tells you about her.

### Chapter 3

1. Who is Calpurnia?
2. What does Walter Cunningham do during lunch at the Finch house?
3. How does Atticus treat Walter?
4. Contrast the difference between the way Scout and Jem each treat Walter. What does this tell you about each character?
5. In his conversation with Scout, what lesson does Atticus try to teach her?
6. Who are the Ewells?

### Chapter 4

1. What make-believe game do the kids play?
2. What do the kids find in the hole in the tree?
3. Who do you guess put it there? Why do you think it's that person?
4. What can you learn about Jem, Scout, and Dill from the parts each kid plays?
5. What can you learn about Jem, Scout, and Dill from their attitude toward the game?
6. What do you think is the cause of the laughter in the house?

### Chapter 5

1. Who is Miss Maudie?
2. What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about Boo?
3. Why does Atticus tell the kids that they shouldn't play the game?
4. Choose a sentence from the chapter that reveals something about Jem's personality. Write it down and then explain what it shows about his personality.

### Chapter 6

1. What sneaky thing do the kids do regarding the Radley house?
2. What happens when they do it?
3. Why do you think the neighborhood assumes that it was a "Negro" in the yard?
4. What is Jem missing when it's all over?

5. How does Dill explain Jem's missing item?

#### Chapter 7

1. Why doesn't Scout want Jem to go get his pants back?
2. Why does Jem say that he has to go get them?
3. Why isn't Jem nervous about the gifts in the tree anymore? How has he changed since finding the first "gift" in the tree?
4. What happens when they try to put a thank-you note in the hole in the tree?
5. Why do you think Nathan Radley is doing this? How does it make you feel about him?

#### Chapter 8

1. What happens to Miss Maudie's house?
2. When Atticus asks Jem about the blanket around Scout's shoulders, what does he realize?
3. What does Atticus mean when he tells Jem not to let this discovery "inspire" him to any "further glory"? Why do you think Jem will listen to his father this time?
4. Choose a sentence from the chapter that reveals something about how Jem's personality or how he is changing. Write it down and then explain what it shows.

#### Chapter 9

1. Who is Tom Robinson?
2. How well does Atticus think he should defend Tom Robinson?
3. Who is Aunt Alexandra?
4. Who is Uncle Jack?
5. Who is Francis?
6. Uncle Jack tells Scout she is growing out of her pants. What do you think he means?
7. What does Scout learn from the conversation she overhears between Atticus and Uncle Jack?

#### Chapter 10

1. Why does Atticus say that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird?
2. Who is Tim Johnson?
3. What surprising thing does Atticus do to Tim Johnson?
4. Jem and Scout have different opinions about telling the kids at school about how well Atticus can shoot. What are those opinions? What do their opinions tell you about each of them?

#### Chapter 11

1. Who is Mrs. Dubose?
2. How does Atticus advise Jem to respond to her rudeness?
3. What are some of the rude things Mrs. Dubose says to the kids?
4. What does Jem do to Mrs. Dubose when he can't take it anymore?
5. What is his punishment?
6. In your own words, what does Atticus think about insults like "nigger-lover"?
7. Why does Atticus say that Mrs. Dubose was a more courageous than "a man with a gun in his hand"?
8. Overall, what do you think Jem learned in this chapter?

#### Chapter 12

1. Where do Scout and Jem go with Calpurnia?
2. What do they learn from the experience?
3. Describe Zeebo's education.
4. Why does Calpurnia speak differently in her church than at the Finch house?

### Chapter 13

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay at the Finch house?
2. What were the very first TWO things Aunt Alexandra said when she came to the Finch house?
3. What do these comments tell you about her?
4. What are Aunt Alexandra's ideas about breeding and family?
5. Does Atticus agree with her? How do you know?

### Chapter 14

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra think Atticus should fire Calpurnia?
2. How does Atticus respond to the suggestion?
3. How did Jem break the "code" of childhood?
4. What does this tell you about how Jem has changed since the start of the book?
5. How do you think Dill's home life compares to Scout's?

### Chapter 15

1. Who is Heck Tate?
2. Why does he come to visit Atticus?
3. Why does Jem follow Atticus to town?
4. Why do the group of men go to the jail?
5. What does Scout do that makes them leave? Why do you think it made them leave?

### Chapter 16

1. How does Jem's treatment of Scout when they return from the jail show his maturity?
2. Describe the feeling in Maycomb as they get ready for the trial.
3. Who is Dolphus Raymond?
4. Where do the kids go to watch the trial?
5. Why is Scout confused after hearing comments about her father's defense of Tom Robinson?
6. Does Judge Taylor take the trial seriously? How do you know?

### Chapter 17

1. What are the main points that Heck Tate makes during his testimony?
2. What does Atticus emphasize when questioning Heck Tate?
3. What did you learn about the Ewell home during the trial?
4. What were the main points Bob Ewell made during his testimony? Why does Atticus make Bob Ewell write his name?

### Chapter 18

1. Who is Mayella?
2. Compare and contrast her with her father.
3. Who is Mr. Gilmer?
4. Why does the jury believe Tom is guilty?
5. Do you believe he is guilty? Why or why not?

### Chapter 19

1. Why did Tom visit the Ewell house?
2. Describe Mayella's relationship with her father.
3. Contrast Mr. Gilmer's treatment of Tom with Atticus's treatment of Tom in the previous chapter.
4. Why was it a mistake for Tom to say that he felt sorry for Mayella?
5. Why does Dill get sick?

## Chapter 20

1. In the USA, people who drink alcohol in public often do so out of a paper bag. Why does Dolphus Raymond drink his Coke out of a paper bag?
2. What do the kids learn from Dolphus?
3. According to Atticus, what did Mayella do wrong?
4. In your own words, what are the main points of Atticus's closing remarks?

## Chapter 21

1. What does Jem expect the verdict to be?
2. What does this tell you about him?
3. What is unusual about how long it takes for them to reach a verdict? What does it tell you about the jurors?
4. Why does Reverend Sykes tell Scout to stand?

## Chapter 22

1. Atticus didn't want his kids in court, but he defends Jem's right to know what happened. What does this tell you about how he views Jem now? (Look at the speech beginning "this is their home, sister.")
2. Miss Maudie tells Jem, "Things are never as bad as they seem." What reasons does she give for thinking this?
3. Choose one sentence from the chapter that reveals something about Jem's personality or how he has grown. Write it down and then explain what it shows.
4. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?

## Chapter 23

1. What explanation does Atticus give for Bob Ewell's personal attack and threat?
2. Why does Atticus think it took the jury so long to convict Tom?
3. How do Jem's comments about Aunt Alexandra show that he is learning to see things from other people's point of view?
4. What is Jem's theory about why Boo hasn't left his house in so long?

## Chapter 24

1. Do you think the missionary ladies are really concerned about the "Mrunas" (a tribe in Africa)? Why or why not?
2. How did Tom die?
3. Why was he trying to escape?
4. What does Aunt Alexandra say that makes her seem more likable?
5. What does Scout do that shows she now has more respect for Aunt Alexandra?

## Chapter 25

1. How does Maycomb react to the news of Tom's death?
2. In your own words, what does Mr. Underwood write about Tom's death?
3. Why do you think a mockingbird is or is not a good symbol to represent Tom?
4. What did Bob Ewell say at the end of the chapter that foreshadowed bad things to come?
5. Why didn't Jem want Scout to tell Atticus about this?

## Chapter 26

1. In her lesson on Hitler, Miss Gates says, "we [American people] don't believe in persecuting anyone." Why does this feel like a strange thing to say given everything that's happened in the novel?
2. Why is Scout confused by the fact that Miss Gates doesn't like Hitler?
3. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?
4. What is the most important sentence in the chapter? Write it down and explain why you chose it. For example, you might explain what it reveals about a character or how it relates to a theme in the novel.

### Chapter 27

1. What three things does Bob Ewell do that alarm Aunt Alexandra?
2. Why does Bob Ewell bear a grudge?
3. What event is being planned in Maycomb?
4. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?

### Chapter 28

1. What is Scout dressed up as?
2. Who jumps out at the kids on their way to the pageant?
3. Why are Jem and Scout among the last to leave?
4. What happens to the kids on the walk home?
5. Describe Jem's health at the end of the chapter.
6. What has happened to Bob Ewell?
7. Who do you think rescued the kids? Why do you think this?

### Chapter 29

1. There is a "shiny clean line" on the otherwise "dull wire" of Scout's costume. What does it tell you about the attack?
2. Who rescued the kids?
3. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?
4. What is the most important sentence in the chapter? Write it down and explain why you chose it. For example, you might explain what it reveals about a character or how it relates to a theme in the novel.

### Chapter 30

1. Who does Atticus think caused Bob Ewell's death?
2. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell caused his own death?
3. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?
4. What is the most important sentence in the chapter? Write it down and explain why you chose it. For example, you might explain what it reveals about a character or how it relates to a theme in the novel.

### Chapter 31

1. How do the events of the final chapters relate to the first sentence of the novel?
2. At the end of the novel, Scout finally understands something that Jem was already coming to understand. What does Scout understand as she stands on Boo Radley's front porch?
3. If you were going to give this chapter a title, what would it be and why?
4. What is the most important sentence in the chapter? Write it down and explain why you chose it. For example, you might explain what it reveals about a character or how it relates to a theme in the novel.