To Kill A Mockingbird

by Harper Lee



***Study Guide***

Themes to consider/analyze:

* racism/prejudice
* man’s inhumanity to man/ empathy/compassion
* the nature of evil
* treatment of others due to ignorance
* the brotherhood of man
* coming of age/loss of innocence
* justice/injustice (the Court System)
* parent/child relationships
* hypocrisy
* trials (“personal trials”)
* courage
* education
* preconceived notions (stereotypes)

**Part One: Characterization.**

Be able to provide/identify character traits for the following characters:

• Jean Louise (Scout) Finch

• Jeremy (Jem) Finch

• Atticus Finch

• Charles Baker (Dill) Harris

• Calpurnia

• Arthur (Boo) Radley

• Aunt Alexandra

• Walter Cunningham

• Mrs. Dubose

• Mayella Ewell

• Bob Ewell

• Burris Ewell

• Tom Robinson

• Helen Robinson

• Rachel Harris

• Miss Stephanie Crawford

• Miss Caroline Fischer

• Miss Maudie Atkinson

• Judge Taylor

• Mr. Gilmer

• Dolphus Raymond

• Heck Tate

**\*\*\*Also be able to provide/identify the setting of the story as well as significant landmarks within the setting. (Ex. The courthouse)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jean Louise Finch):** The narrator (and main character of the book) who begins her story from the age of nearly six. A rebellious tomboy, Scout has a fierce disposition toward any who challenge her, but at heart she believes in the goodness in people and reacts to the terrible events of the book without losing hope.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremy Finch):** Scout's older brother, who is nearly ten at the beginning of the story. Jem is quieter and more reserved than his sister, and has very high standards and expectations for people. When these expectations are not met, he has a difficult time resolving his feelings.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Charles Baker Harris):** A friend of the Finch children, a little older than Scout, who has an active imagination and a sense for adventure. He initiates the first expeditions toward the Radley house, and is Scout's best friend. His family life is less than ideal, and he tends to resort to escapism when confronted with difficult situations.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The father of Scout and Jem, Atticus is a lawyer and an extremely morally upright man who strives to deal with everyone in the greatest fairness. Atticus has an inclination to be a little overly optimistic sometimes, but his unshakable hope and his self-created role as the town do-gooder sustain him. His wife died when Scout was a baby.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A recluse who never emerges from his house. As a young boy, he was in trouble with the police, and his strictly religious, also reclusive parents kept him inside. One day he stabbed his father with scissors, and has never been heard of since. The town has created a myth around him of monstrous proportions. He lives with his brother throughout much of the book.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A black man who stands falsely accused of raping Mayella Ewell. Atticus agrees to take up his case, even though he knows it is probably a hopeless one, if only to show the white community its own moral degeneracy.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A black woman who works as the Finches' cook and housekeeper. She is one of the many motherly figures in Scout's life. She can negotiate between the very separate black and white worlds of Maycomb.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Atticus's sister, who has strict, traditional ideas of how society works and the role for a Southern woman within it, which she tries to enforce upon Scout. She is concerned with raising Atticus's children "properly," and thus shows up during the summer of Tom's trial to stay with them.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A kind, cheerful, and witty neighbor to the Finches and a trusted friend of Scout's, who also upholds a strong moral code and helps the children gain perspective on the events surrounding the trial. She also loves gardening.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** An evil, ignorant man who belongs to the lowest substratum of Maycomb society, living with his nine motherless children in a shack near the town dump. Evidence from the trial suggests that he caught his daughter kissing Tom and proceeded to beat her. He drinks heavily and spends his relief checks on whiskey rather than food for his family.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The oldest of the many Ewell children, at nineteen. She lives a miserable and lonely existence, despised by whites and prohibited from befriending blacks. However, she breaks the social taboo by trying to seduce Tom, then reacts with cowardice by accusing him of rape and perjuring against him in court.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Maycomb County's trusty sheriff, who is on the whole an honest and upstanding man.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The reverend for the all-black congregation, First Purchase African M.E. church, where Scout and Jem visit one day with Calpurnia.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The judge for Tom's trial; a good, sensible judge with a sense of humor.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** The solicitor (lawyer) for the Ewells in Tom Robinson's case.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A mean, sick, very old woman who lives near the Finches. Her heroic attempt to conquer her morphine addiction wins her Atticus's highest praises.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A poor farmer who is among the "Sarum bunch," a crowd which assembles near the town jail the night before Tom's trial in order to start a lynching. He is deeply moved by Scout's words, however, and respects the Finches greatly afterwards.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jr.):** Son of the other Walter, who attends first grade with Scout.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** A white man who chose to marry a black woman and have "mixed" children, and who pretends to be a drunk so that the townspeople will have a way to explain his behavior.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Wife of Tom.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Atticus's brother, a doctor of whom the children are very fond.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** one of Aunt Alexandra’s grandchildren, who spends Christmas with the Finches and annoys Scout by being both boring and cruel





**Part Two: Reading Comprehension.**

**Be able to correctly answer questions that reflect the plot of the story.**

1. From which point of view is the novel written?
2. What are some of the issues in the historical period in which the novel is set (ex.
3. Background information/context)?
4. Describe Scout.
5. What issues was Harper Lee highlighting by writing this novel? (Hint, hint: question 2)
6. To what historical event is Atticus referring when he says, “The Cunninghams are country folks, farmers, and the crash hit them hardest.”
7. What is wrong with Tim Johnson?
8. How do Jem and Scout feel about Atticus after he kills Tim Johnson?
9. How does Jem retaliate against Mrs. Dubose?
10. What is Jem’s punishment for destroying Mrs. Dubose’s property?
11. What do Jem and Scout find under Scout’s bed?
12. How does Aunt Alexandra try to change Atticus’ life?
13. How does Atticus feel about Calpurnia?
14. Why do the men from Old Serum leave the jail?
15. How does the author describe the courthouse on the day of the trial?
16. What are two things that are ironic about Atticus?
17. Why was Scout’s first day of first grade a horrible disappointment?
18. Why did Mr. Nathan say he filled knot-hole with cement?
19. Why was Mrs. Dubose the bravest person Atticus ever knew?
20. Who says that it is “a sin to kill a mockingbird”?
21. Why do you think Atticus never used a gun unless necessary?
22. Mr. Ewell testifies that he saw Tom Robinson doing what?
23. Why would some people in Maycomb believe that Tom’s sympathy for Mayella is bad?
24. What is one fact that Atticus establishes about the case is?
25. What did Tom Robinson say he went into the Ewell’s house to fix the day of the alleged
26. rape?
27. This character is utterly crushed by the verdict, and loses faith in humanity. Who is it?
28. Who attacks Scout and Jem at the end of the story?
29. Who kills the would-be attacker with a knife?
30. According to Atticus, what is the one place that all men are created equal?
31. Why did Tom die?
32. Why does Mr. Heck Tate insists that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife?
33. What woke Scout during the agriculture play for Halloween?
34. What are three pieces of advice that Atticus gave in the novel To Kill a Mockingbird?
35. Why do you think Boo Radley saved Jem and Scout from Bob Ewell’s attack?

**Part Three: Be able to identify the following literary elements in unseen passages.**

* Irony
  + Dramatic
  + Situational
  + Verbal
* Allusion
* Hyperbole
* Onomatopoeia
* Colloquialism
* Euphemism
* Personification
* Foreshadowing
* Pun
* Simile
* Metaphor