TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1. The setting is established and certain characters are introduced in the first chapter.
2. Describe Maycomb, the setting for the novel.
3. Make a list of the characters introduced.
4. Describe the rumours that are spread about Boo Radley.

3. What impressions do you have of Boo Radley from what Scout tells us of his

activities as a boy?

# Chapter 2

1. Describe Miss Caroline. What does Scout do to get into trouble the first day of school?
2. What is a “Cunningham”? How does Mr. Cunningham pay his debt to Atticus?
3. What are the ages of Jem and Scout at this point in the novel? What games do they enjoy at this age? Are these games typical of this age group?
4. Can anything be said in defence of Miss Caroline Fisher, the new teacher? What were the reasons for her difficulties?

Chapter 3

1. Scout meets authority outside of the home in Chapter 2 during her first day of school. In Chapter 3, she has a second lesson with regard to people in the outside world. Explain.
2. What experience does Scout have in the afternoon at school which teaches her more about the world in which she lives?
3. Atticus explains to Scout that night that one must understand another person’s point of view. Describe his lesson to her.
4. How do Scout’s experiences during the first three chapters provide a good background for the novel?

# Chapter 4

1. What further bits of information are given with regard to:
2. the setting
3. introduction of characters
4. advancement of the plot
5. Briefly describe Scout’s relationship with her father.
6. What do we learn in this chapter about Atticus’ relationship with his children, particularly with Scout?
7. What kind of relationship do Jem and Scout have with each other?
8. How does Atticus feel about Jem, Scout and Dill’s games with the Radleys?

Chapters 5,6,7

1. Give a brief description of Miss Maudie. Support your answer with details.
2. What explanation does Miss Maudie give of Boo Radley’s isolation?
3. What opinion does Miss Maudie have of Atticus Finch?
4. “But while no one with a grain of sense trusted Miss Stephanie, Jem and I had considerable faith in Miss Maudie.” What is there in the character of Miss Maudie Atkinson to justify the children’s faith?
5. Why does Scout begin to feel lonely?
6. Why does Jem have to go back to the Radley place in the middle of the night? Scout is bewildered by his behaviour. Why?
7. Why does Nathan Radley cement the hole in the tree?
8. Scout realizes that Jem has been crying. Explain why he is upset.
9. How is the episode with the gifts in the tree important to the story as a whole?
10. What remarkable thing does Jem tell Scout about the night that he had to go back after his pants?
11. Write a brief character sketch on either Jem or Scout and hand in.

Chapter 8

1. Who died?
2. Why does Scout believe the world is ending?
3. What year did it last snow in Maycomb?
4. How do the children make a snowman?
5. Who does the snowman resemble?
6. Whose house burns down?
7. Where did Scout get the blanket?
8. What was Miss Maudie’s reaction to the loss of her house?

Chapter 9

1. Why does Scout get into a fight with Cecil Jacobs?
2. Why does Atticus say he had to take the case? (p. 76)
3. What does Atticus ask Scout not to do?
4. Who does Scout beat up and why?
5. What does Uncle Jack learn about children?

Chapter 10

1. How old is Atticus?
2. What is it a sin to kill?
3. What is wrong with the dog?
4. Why does Scout say of Calpurnia “She’s supposed to go around in back”?
5. What is Atticus’ nickname and why?

Chapter 11

1. Describe Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose.
2. Why did Jem and Scout hate her?
3. How did Atticus treat Mrs. Dubose? What would he say to her?
4. What does Jem do in anger?
5. What is his punishment?
6. How is Mrs. Dubose an example of courage?
7. What does Mrs. Dubose leave to Jem?

Chapter 12

1. How are Jem and Scout treated at Calpurnia’s church? (p. 118)
2. What new form of racism is introduced in this chapter by Lula?
3. Why do they sing by lining at Calpurnia’s church?
4. By what unusual method does Reverend Sykes obtain the money needed for Tom Robinson’s family?
5. Who was waiting on the porch for them when they returned from church?

Chapter 13 and 14

1. How does Aunt Alexandra treat Calpurnia?
2. What is an “amanuensis”?
3. How does Aunt Alex define a fine family?
4. How are Scout and Jem being treated differently?
5. Who is Atticus defending?
6. What does Scout discover under her bed?
7. Why did Dill run away?
8. Why do they decide Boo has never run away?

Chapter 15 and 16

1. Where do the children find Atticus?
2. Why did the mob come to the jail?
3. Who or what convinces the mob to leave?
4. Give **TWO** reasons why Braxton Underwood was keeping an eye on things.
5. Give one example of Aunt Alex’s racism in Chapter 16.
6. What is going on in town?
7. What reason does Jem give for mixed children being sad?
8. What does it take to be considered black?
9. How are the races segregated in the courthouse?
10. Where do Jem and Scout end up sitting? How is this arranged?

Chapter 17

1. Why do you think no one called a doctor?
2. Which of Mayella Ewell’s eyes was blackened?
3. Why does the Judge warn Mr. Ewell?
4. How does Reverend Sykes refer to Jem and Scout on page 173? How is this significant?
5. What do we discover when Mr. Ewell signs his name?
6. Why does Jem say, “We’ve got him”?

Chapter 18 and 19

1. Why does Mayella Ewell think Atticus is mocking her? What does this reveal about her life?
2. What do we learn about Mayella’s social life?
3. What happened to Tom Robinson’s left arm? What is this important?
4. Who does Atticus believe is guilty of beating Mayella?
5. What was Tom’s predicament? (p. 195)



1. How does Mr. Gilmer express his racism through his questioning of Tom?
2. Why would Tom help Mayella? Why is this answer damaging to Tom?
3. Why is Dill sick?

Chapter 20 and 21

1. What is Mr. Dolphus Raymond known as?
2. What does he really drink? Why does he pretend?
3. What “code” has Mayella broken?
4. What did the note say?
5. Why was it inappropriate for Scout to have been at the trial?
6. Was the jury out for a brief or lengthy time? Why is this encouraging?
7. How does the jury find Tom?
8. Why must Scout stand at the end of Chapter 21?

# Chapters 22-28

1. Why does Atticus wish Bob Ewell didn’t chew tobacco?
2. On page 218 Atticus makes what turns out to be a near-fatal error in character judgement. Quote it and explain your choice. He makes the same prediction on p. 250. Quote it as well.
3. How does Atticus define trash?
4. Reread pages 224-227. Paraphrase what Jem and Scout figure out “background” means to Aunt Alexandra. What does Scout mean when she says, “There’s just one kind of folks. Folks.”
5. What speaker at the Missionary Tea do you find the most hypocritical? Why?
6. Explain Miss Maudie’s comment to Aunt Alexandra about the town’s attitude toward Atticus. “We’re paying the highest tribute we can pay a man.” (p. 236)
7. What has Scout learned about being a lady at the end of Chapter 24?
8. Compare Scout and Jem’s discussion about the roly-poly on page 238 with their discussion about the turtle on page 14. Who had changed attitudes? In what way? How do these discussions connect with a theme of the novel?
9. On page 242 Atticus reveals knowledge about what incident earlier in the novel? What does this make you think about him?
10. Explain the irony in Cecil Jacobs’ question about the Jews. “They’re white, ain’t they?” (p. 245)
11. Explain why Scout is perplexed about Miss Gates on pages 246 and 247.

