

Chapter 12

1. A major theme in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the journey from youth and innocence, to maturity and knowledge. Describe how Jem is different. How has the relationship between the siblings changed?
2. Calpurnia changes the way she addresses Jem at the beginning of Chapter 12. What does she call him now? Why?
3. Why is Dill not coming to Maycomb this summer? How does Scout feel about his absence? What does summer mean to her?
4. Why does Atticus leave for two weeks? Why do Jem and Scout go to church with Calpurnia?
5. What is the cartoon in the paper about? What does Jem say this shows?
6. What is the name of Calpurnia's church, and what is the significance of the name?
7. Describe Calpurnia's church. How does it differ from the church Jem and Scout usually attend? In what ways are they similar?

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8. How does Lula react when she sees Scout and Jem arrive at the First Purchase Church with Calpurnia? Why do you think she reacts as she does? How do the other congregants of First Purchase react to Scout and Jem's presence?
9. What does Reverend Sykes say about Atticus?
10. What do we learn about Tom Robinson's arrest? Of what has he been accused, and who has accused him?
11. What prompts Reverend Sykes to order that the doors be closed and that no one be allowed to leave for a period of time?
12. Why is Helen Robinson finding it difficult to get work lately?
13. Why does Calpurnia speak one way around black people and another way around white people?
14. What else do we learn about Calpurnia in this passage?
15. During the church service, we find out that Calpurnia is one of the few African-American residents of Maycomb who can read. The children get to know Cal better during this Sunday and realize lots of things about her that they didn't know, including that she's older than they realized. Look closely at this passage:
"But, Cal," Jem protested, "you don't look even near as old as Atticus." "Colored folks don't show their ages so fast," she said. "Maybe because they can't read..."
What's humorous or interesting about this short passage?

16. Who is waiting on the porch when the children arrive home?

Chapter 13

17. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to visit? How does Scout feel about her arrival?

18. What is Aunt Alexandra's major theory concerning human behavior? How does Jem point out the irrationality of this chapter?

19. Scout states that there is a "caste system" in Maycomb. How does she explain the system?

20. When Atticus comes into Jem's room before bedtime to speak with the children, what information does he relay to them from Aunt Alexandra? What is his demeanor and tone?

21. How is Atticus's speech an example of hypocrisy?

22. What makes Scout cry while Atticus is talking with her and Jem?

23. How do the last few paragraphs indicate that Atticus was merely following Aunt Alexandra's orders and that he feels bad about doing so?

24. What does Scout mean when she says, "I know now what he was trying to do, but Atticus was only a man. It takes a woman to do that kind of work."

Chapter 14

25. How is the trial affecting the children's weekly visits to town? What are people saying?
26. How does Aunt Alexandra feel about Calpurnia? Explain why this is "in character" for Aunt Alexandra.
27. What does Atticus say about Calpurnia? How does he describe her role in the family?
28. How does Atticus explain rape to Scout? Why does he explain the crime in this way?
29. What does Jem tell Scout she should do when dealing with Aunt Alexandra? How does Scout react to his suggestion?
30. Scout thinks there may be a snake under her bed but it turns out to be something else entirely. What do she and Jem find under her bed?
31. What does Jem do that shocks Dill and Scout? How does he explain his action, and does it further establish his increasing maturity?
32. Why has Dill run away from home? What reasons does he give?

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33. As the chapter ends, what is Scout thinking about? What question does she ask Dill, and how does he respond?

Chapter 15

34. The chapter begins on an ominous note as the reader receives hints that something bad is going to happen. Identify at least two instances of foreshadowing from the first several paragraphs.
35. What are the men talking about as the children listen from the window? What can the reader infer from the conversation? For example, what makes Heck Tate “uneasy”?
36. What does Atticus say that causes the men to close in on him? What makes the men scatter?
37. After the men leave, Jem reveals his fears to Atticus. What is Jem worried about?
38. What does Scout say about Maycomb’s jail?
39. According to Scout, Atticus does “something that interest[s]” her and Jem. What is it? What other surprising thing does he do, and why does this suggest to Jem that something is wrong?
40. What do Jem and Scout do after Atticus leaves the house, and why?

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41. Where do the children find Atticus, and what is he doing when they spot him? How does this explain why he left the house with the extension cord and light bulb?
42. What was the “sickening comic aspect” of Atticus’ exchange with the small mob of men? What does this show us about the men in the small mob? About Atticus?
43. Why is the small mob at the jail?
44. Briefly summarize what happens when Scout pushes her way through the group of men. How does she ultimately defuse the situation? Who does she speak to? What does she say? What is his reaction?
45. Why does Jem openly defy Atticus and refuse to leave?
46. Why was Atticus so affectionate toward Jem, even after Jem disobeyed him?
47. The concept of protection plays a major role in this chapter, as several characters are involved in the act of defending or safeguarding one another. Who protects whom, and how do they do it.

Atticus:	
Scout:	
Jem:	
Mr. Underwood	

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Find five quotes from chapters 12-15 that you feel are significant whether it be because they support the theme or because they jumped out at you. Explain why you chose this quote. **10 Points**

Chapter Who says this	Quote	Significance/Explanation