

Chapter 16

1. Why does Scout cry after returning from the jail?
2. How does Jem's treatment of Scout show his maturity?
3. Aunt Alexandra tells Atticus not to talk about certain things in front of Calpurnia, what is Atticus's response?
4. What does this encourage black people to do according to Aunt Alexandra? How does Atticus respond?
5. When Scout asks if the Cunningham's are still their friends, Atticus responds, "Mr. Cunningham's basically a good man, he just has his blind spots like the rest of us." What does Atticus mean by "blind spot"? Do you agree with Atticus's assessment of the Cunningham's?
6. Does the setting in which the story takes place make Mr. Cunningham's "blind spot" understandable? What is the difference between understanding and excusing a point of view?
7. What does Atticus say a mob is made up of? What was able to bring them to their senses?
8. Explain how Jem, Scout, and Dill made Walter Cunningham stand in Atticus's shoes?

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9. What is the mood in the courthouse square on the first day of the trial? What if anything is disturbing about this?

10. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says the atmosphere in town is “like a Roman carnival”? Why does she disapprove?

11. Who is Mr. Dolphus Raymond? Summarize the town gossip about him. Why did Dolphus Raymond’s fiancé die?

12. According to Jem, what are “mixed” children, and why are they sad?

13. Compare and contrast the behavior of white spectators and that of the black spectators.

14. How are blacks and whites segregated inside the courthouse?

15. What does Scout realize when she overhears the conversation about her father? Why is this realization confusing? Why didn’t Atticus give this explanation to his children?

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16. Why do the four men give up their seats for Jem, Scout, Dill, and Reverend Sykes? What does this show?

17. As the examination begins, Atticus's table is bare, what does this show?

Chapter 17

18. Who is the first person to take the stand? From his point of view, what happened on the night of November 21st? Why did he arrest Tom Robinson?

19. What does Atticus spend much of his time asking Mr. Tate?

20. How does Scout feel different once the trial has started from how she felt earlier in the morning while thinking about the incident at the jailhouse? How do you explain the change?

21. Scout says Atticus has an "infinite capacity for calling turbulent seas." What does she mean by this? Is this true?

22. Where do the Ewells live? Describe how they live.

23. What items stand out as not belonging with all of the other broken junk? What might this symbolize?

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24. Compare and contrast the description of the Ewells' home and the black neighborhood nearby. What similarities do you notice? What differences? What conclusions might Harper Lee want the reader to draw about the Ewells and the black families who live nearby based on the descriptions of where and how they live?
25. How does Mr. Ewell act when he first takes the stand, and how does Judge Taylor react to him?
26. Judge Taylor refuses to close the courtroom and says, "People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for." What does he mean?
27. What is Mr. Ewell's version of what happened?
28. Why didn't Mr. Ewell have a doctor check out his daughter? What does this show us about the man?
29. Scout says, "Never, never, never, on cross-examination ask a witness a question you don't already know the answer to." Why did Atticus teach her this?
30. Why does Atticus want Ewell to write his name?

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31. Jem thinks that Atticus has clinched the case by establishing that Ewell is left handed. However, Scout is skeptical that the information proves anything. What are her doubts?

Chapter 18

32. What does Atticus do that makes Mayella Ewell think that he's making fun of her? What does this show us about Mayella's life?
33. Mayella Ewell's testimony reveals to the reader many new details about the Ewells and their home life. How does she describe it? What impression does she give?
34. What part of her testimony contradicts that of her father's?
35. Describe the way that Tom Robinson looks as he stands up. What is unusual about his arms? How is this information relevant to the beating and choking of Mayella?
36. On what dramatic note does Atticus end his questioning of Mayell? What is her response?
37. Considering the evidence and testimony up to this point, do you think Tom Robinson is guilty? Give reasons for your opinion.

Chapter 19

38. Why is taking the oath at beginning of his testimony difficult for Tom? What is significant about this detail?
39. Why does Atticus mention Tom's previous record of conviction?
40. Summarize Tom's testimony. What does he say happened on the day of November 21st. How does his account differ from Mayella's?
41. Where were the other Ewell children on that day? What does this fact suggest about Mayella's motives concerning Tom?
42. In that moment of Mayella, Tom is in a no-win situation. Explain the "subtlety of Tom's predicament."
43. What does Link Deas say about Tom Robinson, and how does his statement show that he is different from the majority of white people in Maycomb?
44. How would you describe Mr. Gilmer's cross-examination of Tom Robinson? What is his strategy? What is his tone?

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45. When Tom admits that he felt sorry for Mayella Ewell, what is Gilmer's reaction? What is the reaction of the majority of white people in the courtroom?

46. What does this say about Tom?

47. Why does Dill begin to cry? What is the author's message in having Dill become ill?

Chapter 20

48. Why does Dolphus Raymond drink Coca-Cola and pretend it is liquor? What does Scout think of him and the reason he gives for his behavior?

49. Why does Mr. Raymond tell Scout and Dill about his life?

50. How does Mr. Raymond explain Dill's crying?

51. Dolphus Raymond tells Scout, "You haven't even seen this town, but all you gotta do is step back inside the courthouse." What does he mean by this statement? How will Scout see what her town is truly like simply by stepping back into the courthouse?

52. What does Jem think the verdict will be? Give a quote that shows this.

53. Do you think he is right? Give reasons for your opinion.

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54. During the closing argument, Atticus pauses and does something that astonishes Scout and Jem. What does he do? Why do you think he does it?

55. At one point during his closing remarks, Atticus says to the jury, "This case is as simple as black and white." What does he mean by this statement? How can it be interpreted on more than one level?

56. According to Atticus what motivated Mayella Ewell to accuse Tom Robinson?

57. How is Atticus' closing statement in defense of Tom Robinson also an attack upon racism?

58. Near the end of his closing statement, Atticus references the maxim, "All men are created equal." According to him, what is the one institution in which this maxim is true?

59. Do you agree with this idea? Explain and give at least two reasons, examples.

60. As Atticus finishes his statement, he says, "A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the men who make it up." What does he mean by this statement?

Chapter 21

61. Calpurnia comes into the courtroom to hand a note to Atticus, what does the note say?

62. Jem is confident that Atticus has won the case, but Atticus is not as certain. Write the line of text that shows Atticus knows he'll lose, but that he's not ready to take away Jem's hope.

63. Why is a long-deliberating jury a good sign?

64. What does Reverend Sykes say about his experiences in court?

65. What does Scout say about concentrating? What does she wish she could ask everyone to do?

66. What does Scout remember as they're waiting for the verdict? How is this similar to the feeling she felt in February?

67. What does Scout say she saw that only a lawyer's child could see? How does she again relate this to the rapid dog? What is the verdict?

68. Describe the final scene. What do the black spectators do as Atticus leaves the courtroom? What does this gesture signify? What does Reverend Sykes say at the end of the chapter?

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Find five quotes from chapters 16-21 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