

To Kill a Mockingbird—Writing Prompts

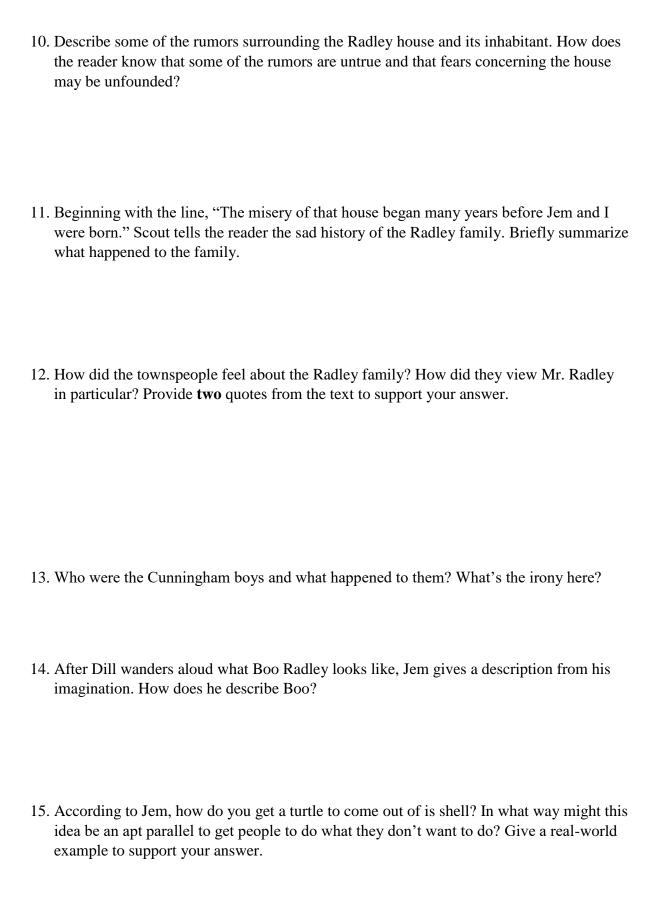
Chapters 1-3: Recall a first day of school when you were younger. How did you view school: with excitement, dread, or boredom? How did you react to teachers? How did you interact with classmates? What was the hardest thing to cope with?		

To Kill a Mockingbird—Writing Prompt

Chapters 1-3: Why do so many people make up, read, or view gruesome and frittering stories? Give examples of horror stories that have been popular. Why do so many people like these tales? Why do they frighten us even though we know they aren't true?		

Chapter 1 Who is the parrate

1.	Who is the narrator of the novel? What type of point of view? Describe the narrator.
2.	Is a child a reliable or unreliable narrator? Defend your answer.
3.	The narrator begins her story by giving the reader some background information. What does the narrator reveal about the family's history in the first several paragraphs?
4.	Where is the novels setting? (Time period, place—city/state) How does the narrator describe the town? What might indicate that most of the townspeople are poor?
5.	How does Scout describe the way she and her brother feel about their father? Why do you think they call him Attius?
6.	What happened to Scout and Jems mother?
7.	Who is Calpurnia? How does Scout describe her? Identify a simile that she uses in her description.
8.	How do Jem and Scott meet Dill? How does Scout describe the boy? What do you think her description means?
9.	What is frightening to the children about the Radley house? What lives in the house, according to Scout?



16. What is the first dare they make concerning the house? What do the kids do, and what is the result of their action?

Chapter 2

- 17. Describe Scout's teacher, Miss Caroline Fisher. What is irrational about her teaching methods?
- 18. How did Scout learn to read and write? Why does this annoy her teacher?
- 19. Scout makes three mistakes during her first day at school. What are these mistakes?

20. An entailment is an unusual legality that prohibits a piece of land from being sold. It was designed to protect a family's interest in a piece of land because it could only be passed down to a member of the same family, never sold for profit. Jem describes an entailment as "A condition of having your tail in a crack," and Atticus later says that Jem's description is surprisingly accurate. How is this an apt description for the Cunningham family?

- 21. Atticus says that country people, like the Cunningham's, were hit the hardest by "The Crash." To what is he referring? Why would country people be the ones to suffer the most?
- 22. Why are professional people suffering?

23. Why does Miss Caroline punish Scout? What do you think of Miss Caroline Fisher as a teacher?

Chapter 3

24.	Why does	Walter Cur	ningham	drench his	lunch in	molasses/	syrup?
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- 25. What does Scout do to make Calpurnia furious? What lesson does Calpurnia teacher her?
- 26. In the tiff between Scout and Calpurnia, Atticus takes Calpurnia's side. What does this show us?
- 27. Describe Miss Caroline's interaction with Burris Ewell. Who came to Miss Caroline's defense?
- 28. What was Scout and Jems habit when it comes to Atticus?
- 29. Who are the Ewells, and why are they treated differently than others? Identify the "Certain privileges" they get. How are they the same as the Cunningham's? How are they different

- 30. Compare the education levels of Scout, Walter Cunningham, and Burris Ewell. How do these comparisons emphasize the relationship between class and education?
- 31. What does Atticus say is bad that Mr. Cunningham does?

32.	What important lesson or "Trick"	'does Atticus te	ach Scout about	understanding people?
	How might this lesson help her?			

- 33. What compromise does attics make with Scout at the end of the chapter?
- 34. What does Jem do at the end of the chapter? What does Atticus say to Scout that gets in the way of Jems plans? Explain what he means.

Find five quotes from the first three chapters 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.

Page #	Quote	Significance/Explanation