



Chapters 4-9

Name

Hour

To Kill a Mockingbird—Writing Prompts

Chapters 4-6: Why do people make fun of those who are different? Why is this tendency stronger in children than in adults? What are ways (3) we can combat these tendencies?

Chapter 4

1. What does Scout think of her education?
2. What's the first thing Scout finds in the knothole of the tree on the edge of the Radley property? Several days later she and Jem find something else in the tree. What do they find? Significance of this? What do they decide to do with these items?
3. In the paragraph beginning, "Summer was on the way...", Scout describe summer by comparing things that remind her of the season. What literary term best fits her description?
4. Aside from Radley place, what other house do the kids avoid, and why?
5. Belief in various superstitions has emerged as a motif (topic) in the novel. According to Jem what is a "Hot Stem"?
6. What does Jem think happened to Boo Radley?
7. What game do the children make up? What is it called and how does Scout describe it?
8. Summarize the tire incident.

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9. Scout has two reasons for wanting to quit Jem and Dill's Radley game. What are they? (What did she hear?) What do you suppose was inside the Radley house?

Chapter 5

10. How is Scout being treated by Dill and Jem at the beginning of the chapter?
11. Describe Miss Maudie Atkinson. How typical is she of Maycomb's women? What do the children think of her?
12. What does Scout mean when she says that Miss Maudie was a "chameleon lady?"
13. Miss Maudie says that Mr. Radley had been a "foot-washing Baptist." What does she mean by this statement? What do foot-washing Baptists believe, according to her?
14. Like her son, Mrs. Radley is rarely seen outside of the house. How might Mr. Radley's religious views explain this fact?
15. Miss Maudie says, "...sometimes the Bible in the hands of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of-oh, of your father." Explain what she means.

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16. The children view Boo Radley as a strange and frightening figure. How do Miss Maudie and Atticus view him? What do they say about him?

17. How does Atticus act in his house compared to the streets, according to Miss Maudie?

18. Scout says that “Dill Harris could tell the biggest lies she ever heard.” Why might Dill have told such lies?

19. Paraphrase Atticus’ speech about the Radley’s right to privacy. Do you agree with his position? Why or why not?

Chapter 6

20. List the four reasons Jem and Dill give for deciding to peek into the Radley window on this particular night.

21. Describe what Jem, Scout, and Dill do in the Radley yard at the beginning of the chapter. What do they see that makes them run away?

22. What happens to Jem’s pants? Find and write down the line from early in the chapter that foreshadows the trouble Jem will have when he tries to flee the Radley’s backyard.

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23. What did Mr. Nathan Radley do?

24. What do you learn about the town/neighbors after the disturbance at the Radley place?

25. What excuse does Dill make up to explain Jem's pants missing?

26. Scout is unable to sleep because she is so scared. How does she describe her sleepless night? Identify an example of personification in her description.

27. Why is it important for Jem to go back and get his pants before morning, even though the mission is dangerous?

28. Jem has decided what he, Scout, and Dill did was wrong. What might account for Jem's change of heart? How does Scout feel about it?

Chapter 7

29. Jem has been acting odd ever since he went to retrieve his pants from the Radley fence. What surprised him that night, and why is he frightened by it?
30. In this chapter, Scout and Hem find several more items in the knot-hole of the tree. Briefly list the things that they find. What item do they consider their “biggest prize”?
31. Previously, the children has assumed that the knot-hole was someone’s hiding place. What evidence now suggests that the items in the tree are meant specifically for Scout and Jem?
32. Who do you suppose is responsible for the gifts in the knot-hole? Who do you think this person is leaving these things?
33. When Jem and Scout return to the tree with the idea of placing in it a thank you note for the anonymous gift giver, they find the knot-hole plugged up with cement. Who plugged the knot-hole and why?
34. How does Jem find out that the explanation for filling the knot-hole is false? What do you think the real reason is?
35. When Jem finally comes in for the night, Scout notices that he had been crying. Why do you think he was crying?

Chapter 8

36. At the beginning of the chapter, Scout mentions that old Mrs. Radley died but her death “caused hardly a ripple” in the neighborhood. Why was this the case?

37. What does Mr. Avery say that bad children cause?

38. What dramatic event causes Atticus to wake up the children at one o’clock in the morning? Why does Atticus make the children leave the house and stand in front of the Radley house?

39. What does Atticus save of Miss Maudies? Why does he do this?

40. As Jem and Scout drink hot chocolate with their father after the fire, Scout notices Atticus looking at her with curiosity and sternness. What does he see?

41. Who put the blanket around Scout’s shoulders, and how does Atticus reach this conclusion? What is Scout’s reaction when she hears the information?

42. Why do Atticus and Jem decide not to return the blanket at this time?

43. How does Miss Maudie react to her house burning down? What does this tell you about her character?

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44. What does Miss Maudie say to Scout about her encounter?
45. Write down the line of the text from this chapter that shows Jem believes that he and Scout are no better than anyone else in their town.
46. Up to this point in the novel, Boo Radley has been perceived as a lunatic or a monster. What evidence in the past two chapters indicates that he is not at all the threatening figure that people have made him out to be?

Draw a picture of Jem and Scout's snow-person based on the book's description.

Chapter 9

47. As the chapter begins, Scout is yelling at Cecil Jacobs, a boy at school. Why are they frightening? How does the fight end? What makes Scout feel "noble"?
48. When Atticus tells Scout not to use the "n" word because it's "common," what does he mean?
49. Who is Atticus defending? What are people in the town saying about the case, and what is Atticus's response to the gossip? If he didn't take Tom's case why can't he make Jem and Scout mind him?

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50. When Scout asks Atticus if he is going to win the case, he tells her, “No, honey.” She then asks him why he is taking on a case that cannot be won. What is his response, and what do you think he is referring to?
51. Describe Francis.
52. What does Francis say about Atticus? How do his comments illustrate that racism exists not just in the other residents of Maycomb, but within the Finch family as well?
53. What does Scout do to Francis and what is her punishment?
54. As Jack and Atticus talk together in the evening, Atticus says that Scout must “learn to keep her head” in the next few months. Why is he concerned about her?
55. Thinking back to earlier chapters, what do we hear about the Ewells? From this chapter, what do we know about Tom Robinson?
56. According to Atticus, what is Maycomb’s “usual disease?” How does he describe racism in this passage?

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57. Scout ends the chapter with the words, "...I never figured out how Atticus knew I was listening; and it was not until many years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said." Why do you think Atticus wanted Scout to hear what he said during his conversation with Uncle Jack?

Find five quotes from chapters 4-9 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 Page#	Quote	Significance/Explanation