

Chapters 1 - 11 Study Guide

Chapter 1

- 1. Narrator: Scout Jean Louise Finch
- 4. Setting: Maycomb County, Alabama; 1930's (Great Depression)
- 5. Maycomb tired, old, prejudiced town where the narrator and her family live
- 6. Calpurnia Finch's housekeeper; skinny,old, strict, big hands, disciplinarian
- 8. Misery of Radley house: Page 9 kept to themselves (outcasts); no church, no coffee with neighbors, no missionary circles; "foot washing Baptists"

First time Boo Radley got in trouble: group of boys locked constable in courthouse outhouse. Dad wouldn't send to industrial school so he kept him in house for 15 yrs.

Second time Boo stabbed Dad in leg with scissors; Dad wouldn't send to psychiatric hospital - locked in courthouse basement; finally, Dad brought home - mold was going to kill Boo.

Chapter 2

10. Cunnigham's: Very poor country folk; good people; pay with food, firewood, etc. and won't take anything from others (can't pay back)

Chapter 3

- 11. **Ewell's**: Poor, trashy family who only have to come to school the 1st day every year; Father spends check on whiskey; He gets to hunt and trap out of season.
- 12. Compromise: Atticus tells Scout to understand people she should try to walk around in their "skin" - Atticus will keep reading with Scout, and she has to keep going to school.

Chapter 4

13. Game: Boo Radley - acting out the Radley family

21. **Jem's surprise:** When he returned to the Radley's to get his pants, they were folded and mended.

CHAPTER 8

26. Scout's blanket: Boo Radley

CHAPTER 9

 Tom Robinson's case: "Licked a hundred years before we started." Black man in white man's world.

CHAPTER 10

- 33. Sin to kill a mockingbird: They only do good things they sing and don't eat gardens and corncribs
- 35. Atticus earns the kids respect? Shoots mad dog best shot in county

Chapters 12-20 Study Guide

5. Alexandra comes to live with them to give Scout feminine influence. She is snobby, irritable, social, and a gossip.

CHAPTER 14

13. Dill runs away because his parents don't give him their attention. He thinks they will get along better without him.

CHAPTER 15

17. Lynching Party: Scout talks to Mr. Cunningham about entailment and Walter.

CHAPTER 16

- Dolphus Raymond: Married to black woman, "mixed" children, owns 1 side of riverbank, "old family:" drunk (find out later he only acts drunk - coca cola in bag)
- 21. Reverend Sykes: Takes kids to sit in balcony at trial

CHAPTER 17

- 23. Heck Tate: Atticus shows did not call or take Mayella to doctor. Also, Mayella's injuries were to right side of her face.
- 25. Bob Ewell: Bob is left handed possible he could have beaten Mayella.

CHAPTER 18

28. Mayella Ewell: Says she asked Tom to chop up a chiffarobe; crying because she knows she is lying. Do you think she feels bad?

- 32. Mayella Ewell: Lonely because she comes from trashy family that no one will have anything to do with; no friends; blacks won't have anything to do with her because she is white; whites won't have anything to do with her because she is trashy.
- 34. Dill: Cries over the way Mr. Gilmer talks to Tom (calls him "boy" talks down to him)

CHAPTER 20

- 36. Dolphus Raymond: Give an excuse for the way he lives people use him drinking as an excuse.
- 37. According to Atticus the thing Mayella has done wrong (in society's eyes) is tempting a negro.

Chapters 21-31 Study Guide

3. The black people in the balcony stand up as Atticus leaves the courtroom to honor him

CHAPTERS 22-23

5. Atticus is unconcerned about Mr. Ewell's threat ("he'd get him if it took the rest of his life"), and tells his worried children that Mr. Ewell, who has been publicly discredited by the trial, just needs to feel like he is getting back against

someone.

CHAPTERS 24-25

Tom tried to escape from the prison and was shot to death by the prison guards. They
tried to tell him to stop and fired warning shots, but he would not listen and kept
running.

CHAPTER 27

4. Mrs. Merriweather writes a Halloween pageant about the history of the county. She wants children to play the parts of Maycomb's agricultural products. Scout is going to play the part of the pork. She wears a large costume made of chicken wire and wrapped around with brown cloth, which she puts over her head so it comes to just above her knees. She can't put it on or take it off without someone else's help, as

it pins her arms down, and she can't see well through the eyeholes.

CHAPTERS 28-31

- 5 and 6. Scout and Jem hear someone walking. When they stop walking, the footsteps behind them suddenly quicken into a run. Jem yells to Scout to run, but her costume throws her off balance. Something is crushed against her and she hears metal ripping. Jem's hand tries to pull her, but she is tangled up in her costume. There is a crunching sound and Jem screams. The person they are struggling with grabs Scout and begins to strangle her, when suddenly he is jerked backwards and thrown to the ground. Scout thinks Jem must have saved her, but she still can't see anything. She hears the sound of someone breathing heavily and, walking toward the tree to lean on, reaches out with her toes to find a person on the ground with stubble and the smell of stale whiskey. She makes her way in the direction of the road, and in the street light she sees a man carrying Jem, whose arm is hanging down oddly. (Summary of events)
- 7. The children were attacked by Bob Ewell. Mr. Heck Tate finds Mr. Ewell lying outside dead with a kitchen knife in his ribs. Atticus thinks that Jem must have done it, and he doesn't want it to be hushed up. However, the sheriff insists continually that Mr. Ewell fell onto his knife and killed himself, which irritates Atticus, who wants Jem to be treated as fairly as anyone else and not have exceptions made. After much arguing, finally the sheriff yells out that he's not trying to protect Jem (he is trying to protect Boo). The sheriff urges Atticus to accept the situation even if it's not perfectly just according to law: Mr. Ewell was responsible for Tom's death, and the sheriff urges Atticus to "let the dead bury the dead." He says that it would be a sin to drag shy Boo Radley out into the limelight, and declares officially that Mr. Ewell fell on his own knife. (Summary of events)

Review Sheet

Characters

- o Scout Finch narrator
- o Jem Finch Scout's older brother
- o Atticus Finch lawyer, father of Jem and Scout
- o Calpurnia housekeeper for the Finch's
- o Aunt Alexandra Atticus' sister that comes to live with Atticus and the kids
- o Dill Harris friend of the Finch children; Aunt Rachel's nephew from Meridian
- o Boo Radley mysterious neighbor the children try to see; never leaves his house
- o Miss Maudie Atkinson witty and cheerful neighbor and friend to the children
- o Miss Stephanie Crawford neighbor and gossip of the town
- o Tom Robinson black man accused of raping Mayella Ewell
- o Helen Robinson Tom's wife
- o Mrs. Dubose mean, sick, old woman who lives near the Finches; morphine addict
- o Bob Ewell father of Mayella Ewell; tries to kill the children; killed by Boo Radley
- o Mayella Ewell accuses Tom Robinson of rape
- o Heck Tate sheriff of Maycomb County
- Mr. Dolphus Raymond married to black woman; has mixed children; carries Coca-Cola in his sack but lets everyone believe it is whiskey
- o Mr. Link Deas Tom Robinson's employer; hired Helen after Tom is killed
- o Mr. Gilmer prosecutor, or solicitor, at the trial
- o Judge Taylor judge at Tom's trial; assigns Tom's case to Atticus
- o **Reverend Sykes** preacher at Calpurnia's church; finds a seat for the kids at the trial

Events (see study guides)

- 1. Arrival of Dill and trying to get Boo to come out
- 2. School
 - a. Cunninghams
 - b. Ewells
- 3. Gifts in the knothole
- 4. Plans to get Boo to come out and events that occur
- 5. Miss Maudie's house on fire
- 6. Atticus shoots rabid dog
- 7. Mrs. Dubose's camellias and the punishment
- 8. Going to church with Calpurnia
- 9. Aunt Alexandra arrives
- 10. Tom Robinson's trial
 - a. Lynch mob
 - b. Testimonies
 - c. Evidence Mayella's right side beaten left handed person what is wrong with Tom's left hand?
 - d. Verdict
 - e. Threats by Bob Ewell
- 11. Halloween pageant
 - a. Attack and rescue
 - b. Who rescued kids?
 - c. Bob Ewell killed who did it and how?
 - d. Confusion about murder Jem vs. Bob Ewell vs. Boo (Atticus & Heck disagree)
- 12. Scout and Boo

Places (see study guides)

- o Maycomb, Alabama where the Finch's live and the story takes place
- o Meridian, Mississippi where Dill is from
- o **Finch's Landing**, **Alabama** where Atticus grew up; Aunt Alexandra lives there now; where the Finch's go for Christmas
- o Old Sarum where the Cunningham's live
- o Ewell House near a dump; where Mayella says Tom raped her
- o **First Purchase African M.E. Church** Calpurnia's church; Reverend Sykes is the preacher
- o Radley House where Boo Radley lives; where the children try to see Boo
- o Jail where the lynch mob tries to hang Tom
- o Court house where Tom's trial takes place; separate areas for blacks and whites
- o **School** where Scout gets in trouble several times; Scout meets Walter Cunningham and learns about the Ewells; Halloween pageant is held here

Themes and Symbolism

- o Compassion
- o Integrity
- o **Prejudice/Discrimination** -- Despite the challenge of overcoming Maycomb's racism and forcing people to change their social views, Atticus struggles on, because he believes that one day, goodness will prevail over the evils of racism and racial equality will exist.
- Loss of Innocence/Maturity -- Throughout the book, Scout and Jem make the change from innocence to maturity. At the beginning of the novel, they approach life innocently believing in the goodness of all people, thinking everyone understands and holds the same values they and their father do. After Tom's trial Jem must reevaluate his understanding of human nature. The challenge of this struggle causes him great emotional pain as he tries to come to terms with disappointing realities of inequality, racism, and general unfairness. Scout also struggles to understand these things, but even following the trial is able to maintain her belief in the goodness of human nature. At the end of the novel, both children are faced with true evil, as Bob Ewell tries to kill them. True goodness, seen in Boo Radley, saves them.
- Mockingbird theme and symbol -- The mockingbird is a harmless creature which does its best to please its hearers by singing, but which is defenseless against hunters. The wrongness of killing the bird is evident, but it becomes a metaphor for the wrongness of harming innocent and helpless people. The mockingbird symbolizes two characters:
 - o Tom Robinson physically disabled, but his real weakness is his social position he is a black man, to whom a white woman has made sexual advances, so he must be destroyed
 - o <u>Arthur^{*} "Boo" Radley</u> emotionally/socially disadvantaged he is very timid and almost unable to be included in Maycomb's society.

Author

- o Harper Lee
 - o Believed that the novel is loosely based on her childhood, family, and friends.