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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



- 1) Why do the people in Maycomb have a prejudice against people from northern Alabama?
- 2) Miss Caroline thinks that Atticus taught Scout to read. Scout believes it came to her naturally and unintentionally. What do you think?
- 3) The story does not explain why the kids look to Scout to explain things to Miss Caroline. Why do you think Scout is put on the spot?
- 4) Some people have pride but no money, like Mr. Cunningham. Some people have wealth but no dignity. Which is more important?
- 5) Why do you think the chemistry (vibe) is off between Miss Caroline and the students?
- 6) Who is telling the story and how do you know? Is the story in the present tense or looking back? How does this point of view feel to the reader?
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might discuss imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

...The cats had long conversations with one another, they wore cunning little clothes and lived in a warm house beneath a kitchen stove. By the time Mrs. Cat called the drugstore for an order of chocolate malted mice the class was wriggling like a bucketful of catawba worms. Miss Caroline seemed unaware that the ragged, denim-shirted and floursack-skirted first grade, most of whom had chopped cotton and fed hogs from the time they were able to walk, were immune to imaginative literature. Miss Caroline came to the end of the story and said, "Oh, my, wasn't that nice?" (17)

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- 1) Compare Jem and Scout's respective (different and separate) approaches for dealing with Walter Cunningham. What do we learn about the characters of the Finch kids?
- 2) Scout says that she hates Calpurnia and advises her father to fire her. Why do you think Atticus dismisses this suggestion out of hand (without giving it any thought)?
- 3) School attendance is legally required for youngsters. What do you think? Should kids be forced to go to school? What ages? Should there be exceptions or options?
- 4) Atticus and the rest of the town judges the Ewell family as a group. In your experience, is judgement of an entire family common? Is this a fair way to view people?
- 5) Think about the behavior of Burris Ewell. How can we explain his angry outburst?
- 6) Review how Atticus talks to his kids. How would you describe his approach to parenting?
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

... "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—" "Sir?"

"—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Atticus said I had learned many things today, and Miss Caroline had learned several things herself. She had learned not to hand something to a Cunningham, for one thing, but if Walter and I had put ourselves in her shoes we'd have seen it was an honest mistake on her part. (30)

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- Atticus's arrival was the second reason I wanted to quit the game. The first reason happened the day I rolled into the Radley front yard. Through all the head-shaking, quelling of nausea and Jem-yelling, I had heard another sound, so low I could not have heard it from the sidewalk. Someone inside the house was laughing. (41-42)

[illegible]



- 1) Why does Scout start to take more interest in her neighbor, Miss Maudie?
- 2) The overwhelming majority of people in Maycomb are Christian protestants (in this case, Baptists and Methodists). Nevertheless, people take very different messages from the same Bible. What different understandings are presented?
- 3) Scout catches Dill lying about his father. What do you think is the true story? Why does Dill want to lie about it?
- 4) What do you think Jem and Dill hope to gain from their note-and-fishing-pole scheme?
- 5) Is Atticus right or wrong to end the kids' efforts to interact with Boo Radley? Explain your position on the subject.
- 6) Atticus questions Jem and tricks him into admitting that they were performing plays about the Radleys. Explain how "the oldest lawyer trick on record" got Jem.
- 7) Prediction time: What do you think will unfold in the story of Boo Radley?
- 8) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

Miss Maudie stopped rocking, and her voice hardened. "You are too young to understand it," she said, "but sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of—oh, of your father." (46)

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- 1) Scout feels left out when she cannot participate in the peeing contest. She resents it when the boys say she is “acting like a girl.” Why doesn’t she spend time with other girls?
- 2) Whom do you think was the owner of the shadow that scared the kids? Explain your guess.
- 3) The antics of the kids are comical to the reader (if not to the kids themselves). Identify one humorous moment from the book so far. What makes it funny?
- 4) Miss Maudie and Miss Stephanie seem sure that Nathan Radley shot at a Black person in his garden, but we know the truth. What does their assumption tell us?
- 5) What mood does Harper Lee create in this chapter? What details and descriptions create the mood of this eventful night?
- 6) Jem’s decision to retrieve his pants astounds Scout. What motivates him to do it?
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

“Maybe so, but—I just wanta keep it that way, Scout. We shouldn’a done that tonight, Scout.”

It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company. Sometimes I did not understand him, but my periods of bewilderment were short-lived. This was beyond me. “Please,” I pleaded, “can’tcha just think about it for a minute— by yourself on that place—” (57-58)



- 1) What examples from the story show that Jem and Scout are kind-hearted and thoughtful?
- 2) It is hard to imagine kids today getting excited about a ball of twine or a broken watch. What does this tell us about the setting of the story?
- 3) What is ironic (when the reality is the opposite of what is expected or appropriate) about the kids of Maycomb celebrating the accomplishments of the Egyptians?
- 4) The tree seems healthy, and the Radleys are not enthusiastic in caring for their property. Why do you think Nathan Radley stopped up the tree hole with cement?
- 5) Jem seems to find the episode with the tree very upsetting. Why is he so distraught?
- 6) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

Jem was holding his ears, shaking his head from side to side. “I don’t get it, I just don’t get it—I don’t know why, Scout...” He looked toward the living room. “I’ve gotta good mind to tell Atticus—no, I reckon not.”

“I’ll tell him for you.”

“No, don’t do that, Scout. Scout?”

“Wha-t?”

He had been on the verge of telling me something all evening; his face would brighten and he would lean toward me, then he would change his mind. He changed it again. “Oh, nothin’.” (62-63)

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- 1) Scout and Jem are mystified by the snowfall. Have you ever been amazed by something that others consider unremarkable?
- 2) Can you recall a time when you impressed someone you admire? Describe how it felt.
- 3) Scout cannot fathom (understand) why Jem suddenly confesses all their secrets to Atticus. Can you understand it?
- 4) What does the housefire emergency show us about the community of Maycomb?
- 5) How does Harper Lee use Boo Radley to teach us a lesson about wrong perceptions?
- 6) Is Miss Maudie really that calm about losing her home, or is she just putting on a brave face in a difficult time? Explain your view.
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

... He seemed surprised when he saw most of the back yard in the front yard, but he said we had done a jim-dandy job. "I didn't know how you were going to do it," he said to Jem, "but from now on I'll never worry about what'll become of you, son, you'll always have an idea."

Jem's ears reddened from Atticus's compliment, but he looked up sharply when he saw Atticus stepping back. Atticus squinted at the snowman a while. He grinned, then laughed. "Son, I can't tell what you're going to be—an engineer, a lawyer, or a portrait painter. You've perpetrated a near libel here in the front yard. We've got to disguise this fellow." (69)

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- 1) What is the appeal of using foul language? What does one get out of it?
- 2) Uncle Jack and Aunt Alexandra do not really understand how Atticus is raising his kids. Can you explain his approach to parenting?
- 3) The Ewells, the Finches, the Crawfords, the Haverfords, and on and on. What does family lineage and reputation mean in the small world of Maycomb?
- 4) Why would people in the community object to Atticus doing his job?
- 5) Why is Atticus more concerned about Scout than Jem when it comes to how the kids will handle the situation surrounding the trial?
- 6) Atticus is convinced that the trial will cause trouble. What kind of trouble would you predict?
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

“If you shouldn’t be defendin’ him, then why are you doin’ it?”

“For a number of reasons,” said Atticus. “The main one is, if I didn’t I couldn’t hold up my head in town, I couldn’t represent this county in the legislature, I couldn’t even tell you or Jem not to do something again.”

“You mean if you didn’t defend that man, Jem and me wouldn’t have to mind you any more?”

“That’s about right.” (78)



- 1) An old proverb says, “The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” Do you think most kids take the qualities of their own parents/guardians for granted?
- 2) What do we learn about Calpurnia from how she reacts in an emergency?
- 3) What details and descriptions add tension and suspense leading up to the shooting?
- 4) When Atticus prepared to take the shot, he “moved like an underwater swimmer.” Identify three more examples of figurative language from Chapter 10. How does Lee use figurative language in describing the incident?
- 5) Clearly, shooting prowess (skill) is something the kids admire. Why do you think Atticus never bragged to his kids about his marksmanship?
- 6) Jem doesn’t seem to make much sense. First, he finds Atticus’ lack of talents frustrating. Then, he is clearly impressed by Atticus’ shooting. Soon after, he says, “I wouldn’t care if he couldn’t do a blessed thing.” (102) What gives?
- 7) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

... We watched Calpurnia running toward the Radley Place, holding her skirt and apron above her knees. She went up to the front steps and banged on the door. She got no answer, and she shouted, “Mr. Nathan, Mr. Arthur, mad dog’s comin’! Mad dog’s comin’!”

“She’s supposed to go around in back,” I said. Jem shook his head.

“Don’t make any difference now,” he said. (97)

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- 1) Why do you think Mrs. Dubose hurls abuse at the kids? What does she gain from it?
- 2) Imagery is when the author provides plenty of sensory details (sights, sounds, smells, tastes, or feels) so that you can imagine vividly. Explain some imagery from Chapter 11.
- 3) Atticus says, "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." (108) What does he mean? Do you agree?
- 4) What do you think is Mrs. Dubose's true opinion of Atticus? Support your answer.
- 5) Can you explain the reading aloud, the fits, and the clock set for 5:30?
- 6) Mrs. Dubose was very sick, and her doctor prescribed the pain killers. Why was it important to her that she break her addiction before dying?
- 7) When a story detail represents something more than itself it is called a symbol. What extra meanings are attached to the flower sent to Jem? Why does he have an angry meltdown when he receives this seemingly harmless gift?
- 8) Excerpt analysis: What makes the excerpt important or interesting? You might analyze imagery, theme, symbol, word choice, characterization, plot / conflict, or point of view.

"... I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do. Mrs. Dubose won, all ninety-eight pounds of her. According to her views, she died beholden to nothing and nobody. She was the bravest person I ever knew." (115-6)

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