

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Discussion questions

Chapter 24

- Explain briefly how Tom was killed. What is Atticus's explanation for Tom's attempted escape. Do you agree with Atticus?
- Hypocrisy is defined as “a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess” (dictionary.com). Identify the hypocrisy present in the Women’s Missionary Meeting. Specifically reread the discussion of the “poor Mrunas” and the ladies’ desire to help them.
- How do we see Aunt Alexandra in a new light? How does Miss Maudie support her?
- How does Tom Robinson’s death make him a metaphorical mockingbird? What was shocking about his death?

Chapter 25

- How does Maycomb react to the news of Tom's death? Comment on the idea that Tom's death was “typical”.
- Explain the contrast Scout draws between the court where Tom was tried and “the secret courts of men's hearts”. In what way are hearts like courts?
- What is the deeper significance of Jem telling Scout not to “mash” the roly-poly? What does the roly-poly represent on a deeper level? What does this tell the reader about Jem? How has he changed? What caused this change?

Chapter 26

What is ironic about Miss. Gate’s discussion of Hitler? How is the class’s reaction to the discussion of Hitler’s unfair treatment of the Jews also ironic?

Why does Jem react so emotionally to Scout’s questions about Miss. Gate and hating others? What does this tell the reader about Jem?

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Why do you think the kids begin talking about Boo Radley again after such a long time? Why hasn't he been the object of the kids' fascinations for several chapters? What has changed? Why are the kids fixated on him again?