

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Discussion questions

Chapter 21

1. What is the significance of where the children sit at the trial?
2. Examine the big paragraph beginning, "But I must have been reasonably awake.....". Why does Scout associate waiting for the jury's verdict with the morning that Atticus shot the mad dog?
3. How does Scout know the verdict as the jury files in?
4. What was your emotional reaction to the verdict of the Tom Robinson's trial? Describe how you felt when you read the verdict of the trial. Is it what you expected? Why or why not?

Chapter 22

5. Although Atticus did not want his children in court, he defends Jem's right to know what has happened. Explain in your own words, Atticus's reasons for this. (Look at the speech beginning, "This is their home, sister.")

6. "I waited and waited to see you all come down the sidewalk, and as I waited I thought, *Atticus Finch won't win, he can't win, but he's the only man in these parts who can keep a jury out so long in a case like that. And I thought to myself, well, we're making a stepit's just a baby-step, but it's a step*."

Analyze the deeper meaning of Miss Maudie's conversation with Jem. What is she saying? What are the larger implications of what she is saying in this quote? How does it connect to a central theme in the novel?

7. Why does Bob Ewell feel so angry with Atticus? Do you think his threat is a real one, and how might he try to "get" Atticus?

Chapter 23

8. What do you think of Atticus's reaction to Bob Ewell's challenge? Should he have ignored Bob, retaliated or done something else?

9. At the end of this chapter, Jem forms a new theory about why Boo Radley has never left his house in years. What is this? How likely is it to be true, in your opinion?