

To Kill a Mocking Bird

H. Lee

Discussion Questions ch. 18-20

Chapters 18- 19

1. Why does Mayella object to Atticus calling her “ma’am” and Miss Mayella?
2. What does Atticus establish about Mayella’s social life during the cross examination?
3. Is Bob Ewell’s testimony convincing? Why? Why do the Ewells hate the members of the Black Community so much?
4. What is the true story of the “rape”? Why would the Ewells bring a lie to court?
5. Recount Mayella’s testimony. What are your feelings towards her? Do you pity her?
6. What kind of man is Tom Robinson? Why did he help Mayella whenever she asked? How is the prosecutor, Mr. Gilmer, able to turn this kindness against Tom?
7. What is the children’s reaction to the events/testimony in the court room?

Chapter 20

8. What do Dill and Scout discover about Dolphus Raymond?
9. Do you agree with Dolphus Raymond's decision to give Maycomb a "reason" for his lifestyle? Why or why not?
10. Do you think Dolphus Raymond should have allowed the people of Maycomb to think he was a drunk? Why did he think the people of Maycomb needed "a reason" for his life and choices? How did this decision impact the town? How did his decision impact his own life?
11. Do you think Dolphus Raymond is a courageous character? Is his lifestyle courageous during this time period? If you think he is courageous, what type of courage is he demonstrating? What adversity does he face? Justify your answer with details from the novel.
12. Review Atticus’s summation to the jury. Does he build a good defense for Tom? At this point, how did you expect the jury would vote?