

To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
Discussion questions

Chapter 27

- What three things does Bob Ewell do that alarm Aunt Alexandra?

- Why, according to Atticus, does Bob Ewell bear a grudge? Which people does Ewell see as his enemies and why?

Chapter 28

- Comment on the way this chapter reminds the reader of earlier events in the novel.

- Why does Jem say that Boo Radley must not be at home? What is ironic about this? (Is it true? Does he really mean it? Why might it be important for him and Scout that Boo should not be at home?)

Chapter 29

- What causes the “shiny clean line” on the otherwise “dull wire” of Scout's costume?

- What explanation does Atticus give for Bob Ewell's attack? What does Heck Tate give as the reason for the attack?

- Do you think the sheriff's explanation or Atticus's is the more likely to be true?

Chapter 30

- According to Atticus, who is responsible for Bob Ewell's death?

- Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell's death was self-inflicted? In what way is this partly true?

- Is Heck Tate right to spare Boo then publicity of an inquest? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapter 31

- How do the events of the final chapters explain the first sentence in the whole novel?

- Comment on the way the writer summarizes earlier events to show their significance.

- How much of a surprise is it to find what Boo Radley is really like? Has the story before this point prepared the reader for this discovery?

- At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout. Comment on his choice of story. Does it have any connection with themes earlier in the novel and in its ending?