

Reading Guide

Part 3

Chapters 16-21

1. Atticus is in disagreement with Aunt Alexandra over many things. Discuss at least two matters of disagreement and each one's position or point of view.
2. Paraphrase how Atticus explains the mob's actions to Scout.
3. Why do you suppose a man like Mr. Underwood (who is a known hater of Negroes) was covering Atticus at the jail?
4. Mr. Dolphus Raymond is evidently a complicated and interesting person. Describe his way of life and comment on its effect upon the town.
5. Judge Taylor's appearance and his ability are two different things. Why do you think this difference exists? Does he appear as he does on purpose?

Chapter 17

1. Atticus spends a great deal of time discussing Mayella Ewell's injuries. What does he seem to want to reveal?
2. The Ewells are "poor white trash." Explain this term according to what you know about the way they live and the kind of people they have appeared to be up to this point.

Chapter 18

1. Mayella Ewell is both disgusting and pathetic. Give examples of both qualities by quoting statements she makes.
2. What is so important about Tom Robinson's physical appearance? What, according to the testimony, does this prove beyond a doubt?
3. How does Atticus appear to feel about his method of cross examining Mayella? Explain why this is so.

Chapter 19

1. In contrast to the Ewells, what kind of person is Tom Robinson? Explain with evidence.
2. Why does Atticus mention Tom's previous record of conviction?
3. According to Tom's testimony, what actually happened on November 21? Be specific.
4. What "mistake" did Tom make in saying that he felt "sorry" for Mayella?
5. Explain Scout's statement that "she (Mayella) was even lonelier than Boo Radley."

Chapter 20

1. How does Mr. Raymond defend his deliberate appearance of drunkenness?
2. Why does he tell Scout and Jem about his life?
3. In five or six sentences, paraphrase Atticus' summation (closing speech) to the jury.

Chapter 21

1. How does Scout "know" about the verdict before she hears it?
2. Why do the Negroes stand when Atticus leaves the courtroom?