

Reading Guide

Part 4

Chapters 22-31

1. How does Atticus feel when the verdict is announced?
2. After Jem expresses disillusionment over the trial and the verdict, Miss Maudie defends the town and its people. Paraphrase what she says to Jem.
3. What causes Miss Maudie to say that at least they have made a "baby step" in the right direction?
4. What kind of clown does Dill decide to be? Explain his reasoning.

Chapter 23

1. How does Atticus react to Bob Ewell's threat against him?
2. Explain Atticus' statements about the following:
 - a. reasonable doubt
 - b. "When it's a white man's word against a black man's, the white man always wins."
 - c. "People have a way of carrying their resentments right into the jury box."
 - d. "It's all adding up, and one of these days we are going to pay the bill for it."
3. Briefly show the difference in attitude toward the Cunninghams as expressed by:
 - a. Atticus
 - b. Aunt Alexandra
4. Why can't Jem accept Scout's opinion that there is "just one kind of folks--folks."

Chapter 24

1. What unfortunate characteristics do the ladies of the missionary circle display? Do you think this is typical of such groups?
2. Discuss the irony of Mrs. Merriweather's admiration for J. Grimes Everett and her attitude toward the trial.
3. Scout feels she prefers men to women. Why? Do you agree with her reasons?
4. What does Miss Maudie mean by "We're paying the highest tribute we can pay a man"?
5. In this chapter Scout learns something about being a true lady. Explain.

Chapter 25

1. How does most of the town react to Tom's death?
2. In what way is Mr. Underwood's editorial in the Maycomb Tribune similar to Atticus' advice to Jem and Scout when they got their guns?

Chapter 26

1. Scout is growing up. Explain her feelings now about:
 - a. their former cruel games concerning Boo Radley
 - b. her remaining desire to see Boo in person
 - c. Atticus' apparent knowledge about their previous activities
 - d. "Current Events"
2. What is the irony of Miss Gates' lecture on democracy when compared to her comments at the trial?
3. When Scout tries to tell Jem about Miss Gates, why does he react so violently? Explain Atticus' answer to her about this.

Chapter 27

1. What were the three threatening things that had happened in Maycomb by the middle of October? How do the methods of each thing or occurrence tell you about the kind of man Bob Ewell is.
2. Why do Atticus and Aunt Alexandra not intend to go to the Halloween pageant?

Chapter 28

1. What does Cecil Jacobs do **before** the pageant which helps set up the incidents which occur **after** the pageant?
2. What things do Jem and Scout think the noise might be?
3. How many people are finally involved in the skirmish under the tree?

Chapter 29

1. Who saved Jem and Scout?
2. Atticus and Heck Tate disagree over the essential worth of Bob Ewell. Whom do you agree with and why?
3. Briefly describe the meeting between Scout and Boo. How does this compare to how she imagined the meeting would be?

Chapter 30

1. There seems to be an immediate understanding between Scout and Boo. Why do you think this is so?
2. Atticus and Heck Tate have a heated argument. Does either of them really believe what he is saying?
3. How does Scout assure Atticus that Mr. Tate is right?

Chapter 31

1. When she takes Boo home, Scout understands many things as she sees the street from this new point of view. Explain some of the things she "sees" now.
2. Describe the feelings you experienced as you read the closing scene.

refer to Jane
Cain
Cecil Jacobs
Boo Radley