

***To Kill A Mockingbird* Socratic Seminar Questions:**

This activity will be given in two phases, a **Seminar Portion** and a **Written Portion**.

Seminar Portion: Participate at least **THREE TIMES** in the in-class discussion held as part of the seminar. *All ten of the seminar questions will be posed to the class.*

Written Portion: Answer **FIVE** of these questions, whichever five you choose. Your answers must be in **COMPLETE SENTENCES (4-5 PER QUESTION!!!!)**

For both the **Seminar** portion **and** the **Written** portion, you must provide **EVIDENCE IN THE TEXT** to support your answers.

For the **Written** portion, please include an **IN-TEXT CITATION** (Lee [page #]) whenever you **PARAPHRASE** or **DIRECTLY QUOTE THE BOOK**.

Seminar Questions:

1. Why did Harper Lee title her book *To Kill a Mockingbird*? What is the significance of that phrase in the book? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
2. Atticus tells Scout several times that they need to walk in someone else's shoes before judging that person. How far should we extend this kind of empathy? For instance, does this mean we need to understand the Ewells? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
3. There are several instances of prejudice in the book – racial prejudice in particular, but also gender prejudice, a prejudice against mental illness, and class/social status prejudice. What instances of prejudice stand out to you the most in *To Kill A Mockingbird*? How is prejudice in general shown to be something horrible in the book? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
4. Consider the role of money and the Great Depression in the book. How do we as the readers see its effects on the different characters of *To Kill A Mockingbird*? How is poverty discussed in the book? Is poverty only connected to lack of money in *Mockingbird*? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
5. In the last few lines of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout says, "he was real nice..." and Atticus replies, "most people are, Scout, when you finally see them" (Lee 323). Do you agree that most people in the novel are nice once you see them? How is Atticus able to see the best side of people despite all he has experienced? Is Atticus right to think this way? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
6. What role does pity play in the book? Are there any instances where showing pity to someone is seen as a mistake? Are there characters that we *should* feel sorry for, or are there characters that do not deserve anyone's pity? Why? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
7. Consider the theme of parenthood in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. What instances of positive or negative parent-child relationships do we see? For example, Atticus with Jem and Scout, Mr. Radley with Boo, Dill with his mom and step-dad, the Cunninghams, Bob Ewell with Mayella (and the rest), Tom Robinson with his children, Mr. Dolphus Raymond with his children, etc. What might Lee's purpose have been in showing parenthood in so many different ways? What should we learn from the relationships shown in the book? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
8. Consider the theme of respect in *To Kill A Mockingbird*: respect for others as well as self-respect. How is this theme shown throughout the book? What is one instance in the book where a character either gains or loses respect from others that stands out to you? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
9. How does the film adaptation of *To Kill A Mockingbird* compare to the book? Was it a good adaptation? Were there scenes or characters that were done well in the movie? Were there scenes or characters that you would have liked to have seen in the film? Explain your thoughts as best you can.
10. What did you think of *To Kill A Mockingbird*? Did you like it? Did you not like it? Why? Explain your thoughts as best you can.