

## Chapters 1–3

### Vocabulary:

#### *Part 1:*

Looking closely at the context of the following sentences, determine the meanings of the underlined words. Compare your definitions with the dictionary definitions.

1. . . . Jem's fears of never being able to play football were assuaged, . . .  
Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

2. Mindful of John Wesley's strictures on the use of many words in buying and selling, Simon made a pile practicing medicine, . . .  
Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

3. . . . she married a taciturn man who spent most of his time lying in a hammock by the river wondering if his trot-lines were full.  
Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

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4. So Simon, having forgotten his teacher's dictum on the possession of human chattels, bought three slaves . . .

**dictum**

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

**chattels**

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

5. But by the end of August our repertoire was vapid from countless reproductions, . . .

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

6. The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

7. . . . the boys . . . resisted arrest by Maycomb's ancient beadle, Mr. Conner, and locked him in the courthouse outhouse.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

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8. The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities indigenous to that region.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

9. She had always been too hard on me, she had at last seen the error of her fractious ways, . . .

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

**Part 2:**

Match the vocabulary word on the left with its synonym on the right.

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. ___ piety       | a. miserliness   |
| 2. ___ stinginess  | b. friendly      |
| 3. ___ imprudent   | c. authoritarian |
| 4. ___ tyrannical  | d. quarrelsome   |
| 5. ___ malevolent  | e. evilminded    |
| 6. ___ stealthy    | f. careless      |
| 7. ___ contentious | g. saintliness   |
| 8. ___ amiable     | h. secretive     |

**Setting:**

1. The first part of the first chapter establishes the setting of the story. Write a short paragraph describing Maycomb, Alabama.

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2. What year would you say the story takes place? What clues are given to help place the story in its historical context?
  
3. Besides the location and the time, what other information is given to set the background of the story?

**Characterization:**

An author develops characters through their actions, their words, and what is said about them. Below are five characters we are introduced to in this first section of reading. Write two or three sentences describing each of the characters listed below. Consider what has been said so far in the story.

Scout –

Jem –

Dill –

Atticus –

Calpurnia –

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**Questions:**

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* begins with the narrator, Scout Finch, remembering something that happened in the past. This novel is the remembrance of that incident and the events leading up to it. What is that incident?
  
2. The legends surrounding Boo Radley are a mix of fact and rumor. List three verifiable facts and three rumors.
  
3. Atticus seems to know more about the Radleys than he lets on. How does Atticus respond to the persistent questions about Boo Radley? What is Atticus's apparent attitude toward Boo Radley?
  
4. What reason does Dill give for trying to make Boo Radley come out of the house? Is there anything wrong with Dill's behavior regarding Boo? Explain.
  
5. Why does Miss Caroline disapprove of Scout's reading ability? Do you think her reasons are justified? Explain.

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6. When Scout and Jem invite Walter Cunningham to lunch, Scout says, "Walter had forgotten he was a Cunningham." What does she mean?
7. At lunch, how does Atticus make Walter feel welcome?
8. Although Atticus is an adult and Walter is a child, there's nothing condescending or patronizing about how Atticus talks to Walter Cunningham. What does this tell you about Atticus?
9. Both the Cunninghams and the Ewells are poor. What makes these families different? Atticus tells Scout that they (the Finches) are also poor. How is their family different from the Cunninghams and the Ewells?

**Dig Deeper:**

10. Atticus says that you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view. What does it mean to see something from another person's point of view?

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11. What would be good about trying to see something from another person's point of view?
  
12. Read Hebrews 4:14, 15 and Philippians 2:5–8. What do these verses tell us about Jesus? How do these verses relate to seeing something from another person's point of view? Read Luke 6:31 and 1 Peter 3:8, 9. How should we respond?
  
13. Atticus says its sometimes better to bend the law a little in special cases. What two examples does he give Scout to illustrate his point? Do you agree that it is all right to bend the law in the examples Atticus mentions? Do you agree with Atticus's general statement?

## Chapters 4–7

### Vocabulary:

Define the underlined word as it is used in each sentence below. Then write down the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb) that the word would be classified as.

1. The remainder of my schooldays were no more auspicious than the first.

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jem arbitrated, awarded me first push with an extra time for Dill, and I folded myself inside the tire.

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jem parceled out our roles: I was Mrs. Radley, and all I had to do was come out and sweep the porch.

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Our tacit treaty with Miss Maudie was that we could play on her lawn, eat her scuppernongs if we didn't jump on the arbor, and explore her vast lot, . . .

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

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5. . . . after her five o'clock bath she would appear on the porch and reign over the street in magisterial beauty.

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

6. . . . "putting his life's history on display for the edification of the neighborhood."

Definition:

Part of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. What is the first thing Scout finds in the knot-hole of the oak?
2. Scout said, "Plucking an occasional camellia, getting a squirt of hot milk from Miss Maudie Atkinson's cow on a summer day, helping ourselves to someone's scuppernongs was part of our ethical culture, but money was different." What does she mean that something is part of the "ethical culture"? Why does Scout say that it's different with money?

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3. One of the reasons Scout didn't want to play the Boo Radley game was because Atticus clearly disapproved. What was the other reason? Why would this make her want to stop playing the game?
4. Miss Maudie tries to explain to Scout why Boo Radley doesn't come out of the house. What reason does Miss Maudie give for Boo Radley's reclusiveness?

Maudie says, "There are just some kind of men who [are] so busy worrying about the next world they've never learned to live in this one, . . .". Do you agree with Maudie's statement about such men? Explain your answer.

5. How did Atticus find out with certainty that the children were playing a game about Boo Radley?
6. Against Scout's protest, Jem decides to retrieve his pants from the fence in back of the Radley property. Scout says, "It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company." What do you think she means?

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7. What does Jem discover about his pants when he goes back for them?
  
8. When Scout questions some of the things Jem tells her, Atticus says to delete the adjectives to get the facts. Do you think this is a good way to separate fact from opinion? Why or why not?
  
9. Who do you think is leaving the gifts for Scout and Jem in the knot-hole? What leads you to this conclusion?
  
10. Mr. Nathan Radley said he plugged the knot-hole with cement because the tree was dying. Atticus later told Jem that the tree didn't look like it was dying. What might be concluded from this?
  
11. Why do you think Jem reacts the way he does to the knot-hole being plugged?

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**Dig Deeper:**

15. The children's desire to see Boo Radley does not seem wrong. Even the note they try to send Boo is polite. Why then do they fear Atticus's reaction if he should find out? In other words, is there anything implicitly wrong with what the children are doing?
  
16. Miss Maudie says "Atticus Finch is the same in his house as he is on the public streets." Explain what she means. Is this a good standard for behavior? Why or why not?
  
17. Read Jeremiah 23:23, 24, Psalm 139:1-4, 11, 12, and Luke 12:1-3. How do these verses relate to living your life one way in public and another way in private?

## Chapters 8–11

### Vocabulary:

Write down the definition of each of the following words. Use each word in a sentence of your own.

1. **aberrations**  
Definition:

Sentence:

2. **ingenuous**  
Definition:

Sentence:

3. **hookah**  
Definition:

Sentence:

4. **obstreperous**  
Definition:

Sentence:

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5. **invective**  
Definition:

Sentence:

6. **rudiments**  
Definition:

Sentence:

7. **apoplectic**  
Definition:

Sentence:

8. **camisole**  
Definition:

Sentence:

9. **philippic**  
Definition:

Sentence:

10. **umbrage**  
Definition:

Sentence:

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11. **rectitude**  
Definition:

Sentence:

12. **palliation**  
Definition:

Sentence:

13. **undulate**  
Definition:

Sentence:

14. **viscous**  
Definition:

Sentence:

**Questions:**

1. After the fire, Scout finds herself wrapped in a blanket. Where did the blanket come from?

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2. While discussing what to do with the blanket, Jem suddenly leaps to the defense of Boo Radley. How has Jem's attitude toward Boo Radley changed? What has caused the change? Why doesn't Jem want Atticus to return the blanket?
  
3. Describe Miss Maudie's attitude the day following the fire. What does this tell you about Miss Maudie?
  
4. What advice does Atticus give Scout about handling insults? What begins the fight between Scout and Francis? Why do you think Scout had difficulty handling the insults from Francis?
  
5. Uncle Jack is shocked at Scout's use of words like *damn* and *hell*. Atticus chooses to ignore it. He tells Jack, "Bad language is a stage all children go through, and it dies with time when they learn they're not attracting attention with it." Do you agree with Atticus? Do you think it's all right for children to use bad language on the theory that they'll grow out of it? Would you allow your own children to use bad language?

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6. *Foreshadowing* is a hint or clue an author gives the reader about something that is to come later in the story. What is being foreshadowed at the end of Chapter 9.
  
7. The title of a book usually is a clue to understanding its main theme. At the beginning of Chapter 10 there is a reference to the title. What is this reference? How do you think this relates to some of the ideas found in the book so far?
  
8. When Scout says that most of the people in the neighborhood are old, Miss Maudie says Scout and Jem have the benefit of their father's age. Why would she call his age a benefit?
  
9. What do Jem and Scout discover about their father when the mad dog wanders into the neighborhood?
  
10. Like Francis, Mrs. Dubose doesn't hold back when it comes to slandering Atticus. It's the first insult Scout hears coming from an adult. How does Atticus treat Mrs. Dubose?

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11. Why does Jem read to Mrs. Dubose every day after school?

**Dig Deeper:**

12. Miss Maudie makes the statement that people in their right minds never take pride in their talents. What do you think about this statement? Is this true? Why? If not, refute it.
13. Read Romans 12:3 and 2 Corinthians 10:18. What do these verses say about pride?
14. Read Proverbs 8:13; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 27:2; 2 Corinthians 7:2–4; Galatians 6:4; and James 1:9, 10. Is there a kind of pride that is acceptable and a kind of pride that isn't? Explain.
15. Somehow, Atticus is able to overlook the insults Mrs. Dubose gives him, and speaks highly of her in return. Read Luke 6:27–36 and 1 Peter 3:8, 9. What do these verses say our reaction to insults should be?

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16. Think of the last time you felt insulted by something someone did or said to you. How did you respond? How should you respond the next time you are insulted?

17. Why does Atticus call Mrs. Dubose a great lady?

18. Atticus says that courage is “when you you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what.” How has Atticus demonstrated courage to his children? Would you agree with his definition of courage? If not, why not?

19. Have you ever been in a situation where “you know you’re licked before you begin”? Did you choose to see it through? What happened?