

## Chapters 17-21

### Vocabulary:

For each of the sentences below, select the word from the word box that comes closest in meaning to the underlined word or words. Write that word in the space after the sentence.

*Word Box*

acrimonious

dogged

strenuous

mollified

stealthy

impudent

temerity

unmitigated

brash

browbeat

1. The executive's resignation speech was filled with bitter remarks directed toward his successor. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Convinced of his superior knowledge and abilities, the student made a hasty and unthinking response to the questions asked by his professor.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Tired though she was, the runner completed the marathon with stubborn determination. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The new employee was rude and disrespectful to his co-worker, not realizing that the man was his supervisor. \_\_\_\_\_
5. His amorous advances were without moderation and without thought toward her feelings. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The outrage of the king was calmed only by the antics of his court jester.  
\_\_\_\_\_

*To Kill a Mockingbird Study Guide*

7. The climber ascended the dangerous cliff with foolish boldness.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The man did not realize that rock climbing is an activity requiring great effort and skill. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Keeping herself hidden behind the hedge, the girl made a secretive approach to the boys' clubhouse, holding tightly to the water balloon.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. The crusty professor made every effort to intimidate new students with questions they could not answer. \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

1. An *extended metaphor* is a metaphorical comparison that is continued at length, and the comparison is shown in several ways. Read the following description of Bob Ewell:

In answer to the clerk's booming voice, a little bantam cock of a man rose and strutted to the stand, the back of his neck reddening at the sound of his name. When he turned around to take the oath, we saw his face was as red as his neck. . . . A shock of wispy new-washed hair stood up from his forehead; his nose was thin, pointed, and shiny; he had no chin to speak of—it seemed to be part of his crepey neck.

“—so help me God,” he crowed.

What is the general comparison that Harper Lee is drawing in this passage? List five ways this comparison is drawn.

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2. A *foil* is someone or something that, by a striking contrast, reveals the characteristics of someone or something else. In Chapter 17 Scout provides a description of the Ewell's house and yard. What objects act as a foil to the junk strewn around the Ewell's yard? What might the presence of these objects reveal about the character of Mayella Ewell?
  
3. When Bob Ewell refers to Mayella he uses language like "screamin' like a stuck hog," "ruttin' on my Mayella," and "lyin' on the floor squallin'." What does the use of language like this reveal about Bob Ewell's character? About his feelings toward Mayella?
  
4. There is a terrible *irony* in the fact that Bob Ewell considers himself better than his black neighbors. List two ways the author shows this irony.
  
5. Mayella Ewell takes offense to Atticus's politeness toward her. What might this indicate about Mayella?

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6. Tom Robinson tells Mr. Gilmer that he helped Mayella Ewell because he felt sorry for her. Mr. Gilmer repeats this with apparent incredulity: “*You* felt sorry for *her*, you felt *sorry* for her?” Scout says,

The witness realized his mistake and shifted uncomfortably in the chair. But the damage was done. Below us, nobody liked Tom Robinson’s answer.

What was the “mistake” that Tom Robinson made?

7. Dill becomes increasingly upset at the way the prosecutor treats Tom Robinson until Jem makes Scout take Dill outside. When Dill tells Scout how he feels, Scout says, “Well, Dill, after all he’s just a Negro.” In spite of all the wisdom given her by Atticus, what has Scout failed to understand regarding racial differences?

8. Mr. Dolphus Raymond says,

Things haven’t caught up with [Dill’s] instinct yet. Let him get a little older and he won’t get sick and cry. Maybe things’ll strike him as being—not quite right, say, but he won’t cry, not when he gets a few years on him.

What does he mean by making this statement?

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9. The children discover that Mr. Dolphus Raymond only *pretends* to be half-drunk all the time. Mr. Raymond admits his deception isn't honest, but it is "mighty helpful to folks." How is it helpful? What is your opinion of Mr. Raymond's deception?
10. In Atticus's final appeal to the court he suggests that Mayella Ewell has "broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society." What was that code? What was Mayella's reaction to breaking that code?
11. In his own way, Mr. Raymond also broke the code. What was his reaction?
12. What "generally accepted truths" does Atticus challenge in his final appeal?
13. When the jury returns with the verdict, Scout says, "it was like watching Atticus walk into the street, raise a rifle to his shoulder and pull the trigger, but watching all the time knowing that the gun was empty." Why does Scout refer to this event once again? What is the significance of the empty gun? By bringing this image to mind, what is the author saying about Atticus and his actions in general?

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14. Is the verdict surprising? Why or why not? What clues were given earlier in the story that the case would probably turn out as it did?
15. Why do all the black people in the balconies stand as Atticus leaves the courtroom?

**Dig Deeper:**

16. What evidence did Atticus show that proved Tom Robinson's innocence? The jury's verdict was obviously not based on hard evidence. On what was the jury's verdict based?

Answer both

Read Leviticus 19:34, Romans 13:8–10, Galatians 3:26–29, Colossians 3:11, and James 2:8, 9. Why is any kind of class or racial discrimination wrong?