

Chapters 27–31

Questions:

1. What were the three out-of-the-ordinary things that happened in Maycomb that Scout says—in a way—concerned the Finches?

2. How did Mr. Link Deas help Helen Robinson support her family after Tom's imprisonment and death? How did he defend her from Bob Ewell? What do these two things tell you about Link Deas?

3. According to Atticus, why does Bob Ewell apparently hold a grudge against everyone involved in the case?

4. As Jem and Scout leave for the school pageant, Scout says "Thus began our longest journey together." What does she mean?

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5. What has happened to the children's superstitions as they have grown older? Why?

6. List three things that foreshadow the attack by Bob Ewell.

7. The attack in the dark is told from Scout's limited point of view. Working from Scout's description and knowledge of the outcome, give specifics about what happens. Make sure to identify the characters involved.

8. Who does Atticus think killed Bob Ewell? Why does Sheriff Tate insist that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife?

9. What does Sheriff Tate mean when he tells Atticus "Let the dead bury the dead"? Read Matthew 8:18–22. Do you see any connection between the Sheriff's words and Matthew 8:22?

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10. Read the following passage from the book:

Atticus sat looking at the floor for a long time. Finally he raised his head. "Scout," he said, "Mr. Ewell fell on his knife. Can you possibly understand?"

Atticus looked like he needed cheering up. I ran up to him and hugged him and kissed him with all my might. "Yes sir, I understand," I reassured him. "Mr. Tate was right."

Atticus disengaged himself and looked at me. "What do you mean?"

"Well, it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?"

Explain what Scout means.

11. Why does the author have Scout reflect on the past while standing on the Radley's porch?

12. At the end of the story, Atticus reads *The Gray Ghost* to Scout. Scout, who has fallen asleep during the reading, tells Atticus how the story ends:

"An' they chased him 'n' never could catch him 'cause they didn't know what he looked like, an' Atticus, when they finally saw him, why he hadn't done any of those things . . . Atticus, he was real nice. . . ."

How is Boo Radley like the "Gray Ghost" in the story? Who are the other "Gray Ghosts" in this story?