

STUDY GUIDE #6 PART TWO: CHAPTERS SIXTEEN – TWENTY-ONE

MAJOR EVENTS / PLOT POINTS

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

the children: _____

quotation: “ _____
_____ **”**

quotation: “ _____
_____ **”**

Atticus: _____

quotation: “ _____
_____ **”**

quotation: “ _____
_____ **”**

THEME / MOTIF DEVELOPMENT: Refer to specific moments within the extended trial scene (and, where appropriate, to the secondary characters involved in them) to explain how the following themes are developed.

the child / adult gulf: _____

boundaries: _____

discrimination/"the other": _____

community: _____

illusion vs. reality: i) Dolphus Raymond ii) the justice system

i) _____

ii)

ANALYSIS / INTERPRETATION / DISCUSSION

- 1 Research the term “humanism”. Argue that, in his refusal to condemn Mr. Cunningham and others, Atticus is a humanist.
- 2
 - a) What point is made, do you think, through the Dolphus Raymond story? “They don’t mind ‘em up north.” What political reality, related to the Civil War, is revealed in Jem’s observation regarding “mixed” children?
 - b) What point has Uncle Jack made to the children on this topic?
 - c) Consider the fact that scientists have recently discovered that all humans possess 2% Neanderthal DNA (this after centuries of denial, due to the supposed primitive nature of Neanderthal culture). Argue that Uncle Jack Finch had this figured out in the 1930s.
- 3
 - a) Note Bob Ewell’s repeated “How’s that?” and Atticus and Judge Taylor’s restatement of questions to the Ewells. What point is Harper Lee making here?
 - b) Illustrate, through reference to specific detail, the excellence of Atticus’s interrogation and defence.
- 4
 - a) Why would Mayella be offended by Atticus’s treatment of her? What does this suggest about her life?
Argue that Harper Lee creates sympathy for her.
 - b) Explain Mayella’s “hatred” for Atticus, demonstrated as she leaves the stand.
- 5
 - a) Why is Dill ‘sickened’ by Mr. Gilmer’s courtroom manner? Compare Mr. Gilmer’s approach to Tom Robinson with Atticus’s approach to the Ewells. Why would Mr. Gilmer approach the defendant in this manner?
 - b) “I felt right sorry for her...” Why might Tom’s feelings of pity toward Mayella cause such a stir?
- 6
 - a) INFER! What REALLY happened between Tom Robinson and Mayella and Bob Ewell? How do you know? Provide the detail and explanation behind your inference.
 - b) Explain the picture you receive from Tom’s testimony of the life of a black man in Maycomb county.
- 7
 - a) Summarize the explanation offered for Bob Ewell’s contempt and hatred for the Black community.
 - b) Bob Ewell is clearly the villain of the piece. To what extent is it possible to go beyond the simple villainy and to see him as multi-dimensional, rather than a cardboard bad

guy? Is it possible to extend any sympathy or understanding toward him, as we are encouraged to do with Mayella?

- 8 a) Explain Jem's confidence that Atticus and Tom will win the case.
b) Suggest the hints we receive that Scout and Reverend Sykes feel otherwise.
- 9 a) Why is Tom convicted regardless of the airtight evidence in his favour? Tie your response into what you have learned of Maycomb throughout the novel.
b) In light of your response to 10a, apply the ILLUSION versus REALITY theme to Atticus's explanation to the jury of the justice system.
- 10 Why do Reverend Sykes and his people remain seated in the courtroom balcony and stand as Atticus leaves?
b) This is another famous moment from the novel. Speculate on why this might be so.
- 11 Argue that Chapter 21 occupies an "emphatic position" in this novel.

NOTES:

Other Guided Reading Questions for your own use:

Chapter 16

1. What surprising thing do we discover about the newspaperman who had Atticus and the mob covered with his shotgun? (Beside the fact that he is named after Braxton Bragg the confederate General!)
2. What event in his past has led Dolphus Raymond to drink heavily, and "hang" with the "colored folks"?
3. Why do Jem and Scout sit in the balcony?
4. Who is the witness on the stand when the chapter ends?

Chapter 17

1. What are the main points in Heck Tate's evidence? What does Atticus show in his cross-examination of Sheriff Tate?
2. What do we learn indirectly of the home life of the Ewell family in this chapter?
3. What do you learn from Bob Ewell's evidence?
4. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write out his name? What does the jury see when he does this?

Chapter 18

1. Is Mayella like her father or different from him? In what ways?
2. How does Mayella react to Atticus's politeness? Is she used to people being polite?
3. How well does Mr. Gilmer prove Tom's guilt in the eyes of the reader (you) and in the eyes of the jury? Can you suggest why these might be different?

Chapter 19

1. What made Tom visit the Ewell's house in the first place?
2. Why does Scout think that Mayella Ewell was "the loneliest person in the world"?
3. In your own words explain Mayella's relationship with her father.

Chapter 20

1. In most states of the USA people who drink alcohol in public places are required to hide their bottle in a paper bag. Why does Dolphus Raymond hide Coca-Cola in a bag?
2. What, according to Atticus, is the thing that Mayella has done wrong?
3. Explain, in your own words, Atticus's views on people's being equal.

Chapter 21

1. What does Jem expect the verdict to be? Does Atticus think the same?
2. What is unusual about how long it takes the jury to reach a verdict? Is the verdict predictable or not?
3. As Scout waits for the verdict, she thinks of earlier events. What are these?

Marking scheme

0-40	50-60	60-70	71-75	76-85	86-90	91-95	96-100
blank, or mostly blank; untidy, illegible; incomplete answers	a token effort; many blanks; some untidiness, doodling, illegibility; incomplete answers	hardly any blanks; complete answers; legible No doodling; Demonstrates grasp of material and expectations	no blanks; complete answers; neatly legible; meets expectations	complete, thoughtful answers; neatly legible	thorough answers; neatly legible; exceeds expectations	extensive answers; orderly appearance	penetrating, original answers; exceptional effort, completed with care and insight