

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD STUDY GUIDE

Name: _____



Deep Fried Kudzu. "Old Monroe County Courthouse - To Kill A Mockingbird." flickr.com. Uploaded on 16 March 2006. <<http://flickr.com/photos/deepfriedkudzu/113475917/>>.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION FOR BOOK WITH ONE AUTHOR:

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Now write the proper citation for To Kill a Mockingbird:

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. How does the community of Maycomb define the roles and personalities of various characters? How does the setting and geography reflect these definitions?
2. How do characters deal with the pressure of these roles, expectations, and stereotypes?
3. What are the life lessons Atticus tries to teach his children?
4. Who is marginalized in Maycomb? How do they each deal with their marginalization? What effect do they have, or what purpose do they serve, in the larger community?

READING THE NOVEL:

1. Highlight descriptions of places. Create a map of the town of Maycomb.
2. Look out for the motif of birds
3. Make a note of the different kinds of education the children receive -- especially the life lessons they get from Atticus
4. Look for the differences between the everyday reality that adults see and the imaginative reality that the children see

READING SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		2 HW: Ch. 1-2	3 HW: Ch. 3-5	4 HW: Ch. 6-7
7 HW: Ch. 8-9	8 HW: Ch. 10-11	9	10 Part 1 Test HW: Ch. 12-13	11 HW: Ch. 14-15
14 HW: Ch. 16-17	15 HW: Ch. 18-19	16 HW: Ch. 20-21	17 HW: Ch. 22-23	18 HW: Ch. 24-26
21	22	23 HW: Ch. 27-28	24 HW: Ch. 29-31	25

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS:

JAN. 10 - PART 1 TEST

JAN. 28 - UNIT TEST

I-2

From whose point-of-view is this story being told?

Describe Maycomb. What is the town like? What are the people in the town like?

What did Dill dare Jem to do?

Name three things that gets Scout in trouble with Miss Caroline.

Scout explains that Walter cannot take Miss Caroline's money because "He's a Cunningham." What does she mean by this?

doesn't have his lunch	taught Scout how to write	African-American	a former client of Atticus	almost seven
read to Scout at night	doesn't own shoes	around 10 years old	spends his summers in Maycomb	around 6 years old
farmer	breaks his arm	lawyer	short	Jeremy Atticus
from Winston County	has a new way of teaching	not seen in public for 15 years	Charles Baker Harris	replaces Mr. Radley (the farmer)
from Meridian	was arrested	Jean Louise	cook	Arthur

ATTICUS

SCOUT

JEM

CALPURNIA

DILL

BOO

NATHAN RADLEY

WALTER CUNNINGHAM (JR.)

WALTER CUNNINGHAM

MISS CAROLINE

3-5

What “special privileges” do the Ewells have (name two)?
Why?

What compromise does Atticus make with Scout?

What do Jem and Scout find in the knot-hole of a tree?

Why doesn't Scout want to play “Boo Radley”?

Why doesn't Atticus want the children to play “Boo Radley”?

What does Miss Maudie think of the rumors about Boo Radley?

Explain this quote: “But sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of—oh, of your father.”

a widow	rich	hears laughing	rolls in the tire	scared by 'cootie'
scolds Scout to be a better host	invites Walter to dinner	flirts with Maudie	"stop tormenting that man"	comes up with the idea to pass Boo a note
beats up Walter Cunningham	3 rd year in 1 st grade	says his father owns a railroad	comes over on Christmas	pours syrup over his dinner

SCOUT

WALTER

JEM

MISS CAROLINE

BURRIS EWELL

CALPURNIA

ATTICUS

DILL

MISS MAUDIE ATKINSON

UNCLE JACK

6-7

Why did Dill, Scout, and Jem go to the Radley place and why did they leave?

How does Dill explain what happened to Jem's pants?

Why is it important to Jem that he gets his pants back? (Name at least two reasons)

Name at least three new items Jem and Scout discovered in the knot-hole

Why do you think Jem cried at the end of chapter 7?

loses his pants	doesn't want to go on the Radley property	kisses Scout	boarded across from Mrs. Dubose	fills up the knot-hole with cement
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SCOUT

JEM

DILL

MR. AVERY

NATHAN RADLEY

8-9

How does Maudie Atkinson handle what has happened to her house?

“...if I didn’t I couldn’t hold up my head in town, I couldn’t represent this county in the legislature, I couldn’t even tell you or Jem not to do something again.”

Explain this quote. Why does Atticus feel he must defend Tom Robinson?

What does Atticus ask Scout to do after he explains that he has to defend Tom Robinson?

Compare Aunt Alexandra, Atticus, and Uncle Jack. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they distinct? (Consider their attitude toward children and toward Atticus’ recent legal case)

Why do you think Atticus wanted Scout to hear his conversation with Uncle Jack?

gives away snow	great cook	doctor	nearly throws up	loses house to fire
warns Scout not to cuss	blamed the snow on the kids	wants Scout to be more ladylike	confesses everything about Boo	believes Atticus is ruining the Finches
falls out of a burning building	Aunt Alexandra's grandson	figures out how to make a snowman	makes Scout forget her promise to Atticus	resembles the Morphodite

SCOUT

JEM

MISS MAUDIE ATKINSON

MR. AVERY

UNCLE JACK

AUNT ALEXANDRA

FRANCIS

IO-II

In what ways do Scout and Jem wish their father was different at the beginning of chapter 10?

“...Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit ‘em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”

How does Miss Maudie explain this quote? In a more general sense, how does this quote explain Atticus’ philosophy of life (why, for example, Atticus does not go hunting)?

What was Atticus’ nickname as a boy?

How does Atticus punish Jem for hacking away at Mrs. Dubose’s camellia bushes? In what ways did this punishment turn out to be a good lesson for Jem?

Why does Atticus consider Mrs. Dubose a lady? What is his definition of courage?

insults the Finches	celebrates his 12 th birthday	morphine addict	rumored to hide a pistol	makes Jem read to her
sheriff	cleans up dead dog	shoots Tim Johnson	breaks his glasses	wants a baton

SCOUT

JEM

ATTICUS

HECK TATE

ZEEBO

MRS. DUBOSE

I2-I3

How is Jem changing? What do you think are the reason(s) for these changes?

How is Calpurnia's church different from Scout's regular church?

Why doesn't Rev. Sykes let anyone out of the church?

In what ways does Calpurnia lead, as Scout says, a "double-life"?

Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay in Maycomb for a while?

Compare and contrast Aunt Alexandra with Calpurnia.

leads in 'linin' the hymns	older than Atticus (1)	older than Atticus (2)	Calpurnia's son	obsessed with heredity
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CALPURNIA

LULA

ZEEBO

AUNT ALEXANDRA

I4-I5

Why does Atticus and Aunt Alexandra get into a fight before Scout and Jem go to bed?

Why did Dill run away from home?

Why was Atticus reading outside of the jailhouse?

How do the children complicate then solve the situation between Atticus and the gang from Old Sarum?

Why do you think Atticus tussled Jem's hair at the end of Chapter 15 even though Jem had expressly disobeyed Atticus's orders to leave?

has been in the Finch family for generations	tells Mr. Cunningham to say 'hey' to his son	wants to get rid of Calpurnia	carries Atticus's chair back	takes an extension cord
hides under Scout's bed	publisher of the Maycomb Tribune	has a new father	in the jail at Maycomb	has been converging Atticus with a shotgun
worried about Tom's move to the county jail	first one to join Atticus at the jail	refuses to leave	chases a false lead (snipe hunt)	"Do you really think so?"

AUNT ALEXANDRA

CALPURNIA

ATTICUS

SCOUT

JEM

DILL

HECK TATE

MR. UNDERWOOD

TOM ROBINSON

I6-I7

Why is Dolphus Raymond an unusual character in the town?

What are the rumors about him?

Why is Scout confused about what she overhears from the old men in the courthouse (the Idlers' Club)?

Where did the Ewells live?
What was life like for the Ewells?

Why does Rev. Sykes try to get the children to leave?

Why does Atticus make Bob Ewell sign his name?

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AUNT ALEXANDRA

CALPURNIA

ATTICUS

SCOUT

JEM

DILL

HECK TATE

MR. UNDERWOOD

TOM ROBINSON

I8-I9

What was Mayella's attitude towards Atticus while she was on the witness stand? Why?

What was life like for Mayella? Why do you think Atticus wants to show this?

List the inconsistencies you found in Mayella's testimony. (Use the back)

Why does Scout call Mayella the "loneliest person in the world"?

According to Tom Robinson, what happened that evening on November 21?

What is it about the nature of Mr. Gilmer's cross-examination that made Dill cry?

asked Tom to bust a chiffarobe	hired Tom Robinson	been in jail before	oldest of the Ewell children	got his hand caught in a cotton gin as a boy
afraid of Atticus	angers Judge Taylor	alcoholic	hand won't stay on the Bible	questions Tom's motive for helping Mayella

BOB EWELL

MAYELLA EWELL

TOM ROBINSON

LINK DEAS

MR. GILMER

20-21

Why does Dolphus Raymond pretend to be an alcoholic?

In Atticus's closing statements, he says, "The defendant is not guilty, but somebody in this courtroom is." Who is he talking about? What is this person guilty of?

Why does Calpurnia interrupt the trial?

What is Jem's prediction for the outcome of the trial? How does Rev. Sykes respond to this?

What happens as Atticus leaves the courthouse?

22-23

How does the African-American community show their appreciation to Atticus? Why does he ask them not to do it again?

What reasons does Miss Maudie give Jem for being optimistic about Tom Robinson's trial? (Make sure you include in your answer other people who, in some small way, tried to help Tom Robinson)

How does Atticus explain Bob Ewell's actions against him to his children?

Who in the jury originally wanted to acquit Tom Robinson? Why is this surprising? Based on what Atticus has said, why do you think he eventually changed his mind?

"I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all the time... it's because he *wants* to stay inside."

Explain this quote. Make sure you mention specifically some of the things that confuse Jem and Scout about adults and about Maycomb society. (Use the back)

24-26

Examine carefully the conversation among the ladies in the missionary circle meeting. In what ways does this show that ordinary folk are just as racist as folks like the Ewells? How is their racism different?

Why does Aunt Alexandra thank Maudie Atkinson?

Contrast how the people in Maycomb explain why Tom tried to escape (ch. 25) with the explanation Atticus gives for Tom's motivation (ch. 24).

“Atticus used every tool available to free men to save Tom Robinson, but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case.”

Explain this quote. Why does Mr. Underwood compare Tom Robinson to the killing of songbirds?

What troubles Scout about Miss Gates?

re-elected to state legislature	the most devout lady in Maycomb	Scout's new teacher	wants to be on the football team	faints
thinks people like Eleanor Roosevelt is a hypocrite	takes Dill and Jem to the Negro cabins	missionary to the Mrunas	does not laugh at Scout	hosts a missionary circle
hates Hitler	"one down and about two more to go"	takes Calpurnia to see Helen Robinson	writes an editorial in the newspaper	dies trying to escape

AUNT ALEXANDRA

MISS MAUDIE ATKINSON

MRS. MERRIWETHER

J. EVERETT GRIMES

TOM ROBINSON

HELEN ROBINSON

MR. UNDERWOOD

MISS GATES

27-28

Why do you think Harper Lee points out the mockingbird at the beginning of chapter 28?

Why does Heck Tate say happened to Bob Ewell at the end of chapter 28?

children play a prank on them	falls asleep and misses her cue	tries to burgle Judge Taylor	composes a Halloween pageant	hires Helen Robinson
follows Helen	gets his arm broken	wears a ham costume	deaf	chaperones Scout to the pageant

BOB EWELL

LINK DEAS

MISSES TUTTI AND FRUTTI

MRS. MERRIWETHER

SCOUT

JEM

29-31

According to Heck Tate, what (thing) probably saved Scout's life?

Who came to help the children and carried Jem home? How do you think Scout figured out who he was?

What things do we learn that might suggest new possibilities why Arthur has been inside his house all these years?

What do Atticus and Heck Tate argue about? What are their respective positions in this argument? How does Heck Tate finally convince Atticus?

Describe, in general, what Scout sees from Boo's porch?