To Kill a Mockingbird Part 1, Chapters 1-7

1. What do Scout, Jem, and Dill know about Boo Radley? What parts of their understanding of Boo are based on facts and reliable information? What parts are based on gossip and legend? How can the reader tell the difference between the facts about the Radley family and the legends?

2. How does the relationship between Scout and Jem change over the first seven chapters? How does Scout understand the changes Jem undergoes?

3. In Chapter 3, Atticus and Scout talk about "Maycomb's ways." What stands out to you most about the customs, traditions, and unwritten rules of Maycomb's society?

4. What is "the other"? Who are "the others" in Maycomb? What roles do race, class, and gender play in establishing who is the other? What role does gossip and superstition play? What about stereotypes? What about fear?

5. What events and experiences begin to change Jem's feelings about Boo Radley in these chapters? What does this suggest about how we can better understand people different from us?

6. How does race complicate the circumstances of the characters we have met so far? What role does Calpurnia play in the Finch family? What authority does she have in the Finch household that she might not have elsewhere in Maycomb?