

Name: _____

To Kill a Mockingbird
Part 2, Chapters 16-21

1. What “subtle change” does Scout notice in Atticus at the beginning of chapter 16? What other evidence in this chapter supports her observation?

2. When Scout asks if the Cunninghams are still their friends, Atticus responds, “Mr. Cunningham’s basically a good man, he just has his blind spots like the rest of us.” What does Atticus mean by “blind spot”?

3. According to Jem, how does their society define who is black? How does he answer Scout when she asks how to tell whether or not someone is black? What does Jem’s answer suggest about the meaning of race?

4. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name? How does this lead Jem to conclude, “We’ve got him”? Why does Scout think he is jumping to conclusions?

5. How does Bob Ewell explain to Atticus why he did not call for a doctor to examine Mayella? What is Atticus implying by asking both Heck Tate and Bob Ewell this question?

6. Why does Mayella say that she is afraid of Atticus when she first takes the stand? Why does she think Atticus is mocking her as her testimony proceeds? What does it suggest about how the residents of Maycomb have treated them?

7. What crucial detail is revealed about Tom Robinson in chapter 18? How does it change our understanding of what happened to Mayella on November 21?

8. How does Atticus speak to Tom Robinson differently from the way Mr. Gilmer does? Cite specific examples from the text that show the difference.

9. Atticus claims that Mr. Ewell did “what any God-fearing, persevering, respectable white man would do under the circumstances” when he turned in Tom Robinson. Why do you think Atticus makes this claim? Within the “moral universe” of Maycomb, is accusing Tom Robinson of rape viewed as respectable?

10. Who or what is the antagonist in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? How do you think Atticus would answer that question? Who or what does he see as his opponent in the Tom Robinson trial?