

Name: _____

To Kill a Mockingbird
Part 1, Chapters 8-11

1. What does the town's response to the fire at Miss Maudie's house reveal about Maycomb's universe of obligation in this chapter? A community's universe of obligation includes the circle of individuals and groups toward whom obligations are owed, to whom rules apply, and whose injuries call for amends. In other words, a community's universe of obligation consists of those its members believe are worthy of respect and protection.

2. Is it easy or difficult for Jem and Scout to change their apparent misconceptions about Boo? Find evidence in chapter 8 to support your answer for each character.

3. What is Aunt Alexandra's vision for what is "lady-like"? How does Scout respond to that vision? What does Atticus think about Scout's conformity to gender roles?

4. What does "nigger-lover" mean to the residents of Maycomb? Why is it such a powerful insult?

5. Discussing the Tom Robinson case with Uncle Jack, Atticus refers to “Maycomb’s usual disease.” What does he mean? Why doesn’t he suffer from it?

6. Atticus instructs Scout and Jem that “it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” What does this advice mean?

7. Both the mockingbird and the mad dog are symbols. Based on what you have read so far, what or who in this story might the mockingbird symbolize? What or who might the mad dog symbolize?

8. What does it mean to be a “man”? Based on your reading of chapter 10, how might Scout answer this question? How might Atticus? Do you think Jem agrees more with Scout or with Atticus?

9. Scout tells Atticus that he must be wrong to represent Tom Robinson because most people in Maycomb think it is wrong. How does Atticus respond?