Name: Date: Period:

*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee **Reading Guide**

***Answer all of the following questions in complete sentences.***

**Chapter 16**

1. What “subtle changes” does Scout notice in her father?
2. What sort of person is Dolphus Raymond?
3. How does Reverend Sykes help the children see and hear the trial? Is he right to do so?
4. Comment on Judge Taylor’s attitude to his job. Does he take the trial seriously or not?

**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. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name out? 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. 2. What might be the reason for Mayell’as crying in the court?
3. How does Mayella react to Atticus’s politeness? Is she used to people being polite?
4. 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.
4. How does Dill react to this part of the trial? Why is this, in your opinion?

**Chapter 20**

1. Scout says that “Mr. Dolphus Raymond was an evil man”. Is she right?
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, and how do they remind us of the novel’s central themes?

**Chapter 22**

1. Although Atticus did not want his children in court, he defends Jem’s right to know what has happened. Explain, in your own words, Atticus’s reasons for this. (Look at the speech beginning, “This is their home, sister.”
2. Miss Maudie tells Jem that “things are never as bad as they seem”. What reasons does she give for this view?
3. This story is set in the 1930s but was published in 1960. Have attitudes towards racism remained the same or have there been any changes (for the better or worse) since then, in your view?
4. Why does Bob Ewell feel so angry with Atticus? Do you think his threat is ar eal one, and how might he try to “get” Atticus?

**Chapter 23**

1. What do you think of Atticus’s reaction to Bob Ewell’s challenge? Should he have ignored Bob, retaliated or done something else?
2. What is “circumstantial evidence”? What has it got to do with Tom’s conviction?
3. What does Atticus tell Scout about why the jury took so long to convict Tom?
4. Why does Aunt Alexandra accept that the Cunninghams may be good but are not “our kind of folks”? Do you think that people should mix only what others of the same social class? Are class divisions good or bad for societies?
5. At the end of this chapter, Jem forms a new theory about why Boo Radley has never left his house in years. What is this? How likely is it to be true, in your opinion?

**Chapter 24**

1. Do you think the missionary ladies are sincere in worrying about the “Mrunas” (a tribe in Africa)? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Compare the reactions of Miss Maudie and the other ladies when Scout says she is wearing her “britches” under her dress.
3. What is your opinion of the Maycomb ladies, as depicted in this chapter?
4. Explain briefly how Tom was killed. What is Atticus’s explanation for Tom’s attempted escape? Do you agree with Atticus?
5. How, in this chapter, do we see Aunt Alexandra in a new light? How does Miss Maudie support her?

**Chapter 25**

1. How does Maycomb react to the news of Tom’s death?
2. Comment on the idea that Tom’s death was “typical”.
3. Explain the contrast Scout draws between the court where Tom was tried and “the secret courts of men’s hearts”. In what way are hearts like courts?
4. Why did Jem not want Scout to tell Atticus about Bob Ewell’s comment? Was this a wise thing to ask her to do?

**Chapter 26**

1. In her lesson on Hitler, Miss Gates says that “we (American people) don’t believe in persecuting anyone”. What seems odd to the reader about this claim?
2. Why is Scout puzzled by Miss Gates’ disapproval of Hitler?
3. Why does Scout’s question upset Jem? Is there a simple answer, or any answer, to the question (“How can you hate Hitler an’ then turn around and be ugly about folks right at home?”)

**Chapter 27**

1. What three things does Bob Ewell do that alarm Aunt Alexandra?
2. Why, according to Atticus, does Bob Ewell bear a grudge? Which people does Ewell see as his enemies, and why?
3. What was the purpose of the Halloween pageant? What practical joke had persuaded the grown ups to have an organized event?

**Chapter 28**

1. Comment on the way this chapter reminds the reader of earlier events in the novel.
2. Why does Jem say that Boo Radley must not be at home? What is ironic about this? (Is it true? Does he really mean it? Why might it be important for he and Scout that Boo should not be at home?)
3. Scout decides to keep her costume on while walking home. How does this affect her understanding of what happens on her way?
4. Why had Atticus not brought a chair for the man in the corner? Who might this stranger be?

**Chapter 29**

1. What causes the “shiny clean line” on the otherwise “dull wire” of Scout’s costume?
2. What explanation does Atticus give for Bob Ewell’s attack? What does Heck Tate give as the reason for the attack?
3. Do you think the sheriff’s explanation or Atticus’s is the more likely to be true?

**Chapter 30**

1. Who does Atticus think caused Bob Ewell’s death?
2. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell’s death was self-inflicted? In what way is this partly true?
3. Is Heck Tate right to spare Boo then publicity of an inquest? Give reasons for your answer.
4. How does the writer handle the appearance, at the end of the story, of Boo Radley?

**Chapter 31**

1. How do the events of the final chapters explain the first sentence in the whole novel?
2. Comment on the way the writer summarizes earlier events to show their significance.
3. How does Scout make sense of an earlier remark of Atticus’s as she stands on the Radley porch?
4. How much of a surprise is it to find Boo Radley is really like? Has the story before this point prepared the reader for this discovery?
5. At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout. Comment on his choice of story. Does it have any connection with themes earlier in the novel and in its ending?