

To Kill a Mockingbird



Study Questions

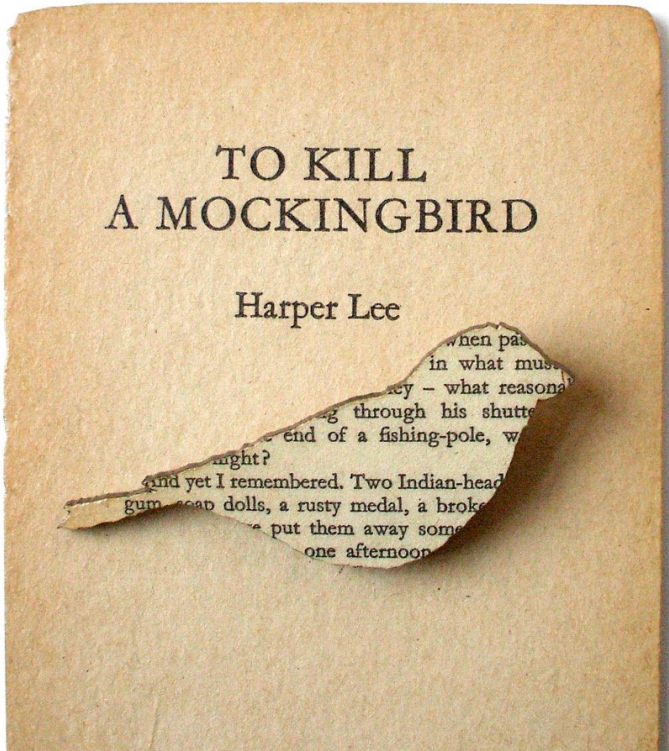
Record your answers on a separate sheet of paper. You must answer in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. Our narrator is Scout, a girl who will grow from age 6 to almost 9 during the story. What do you suppose we, as the readers, should be aware of as we listen to Scout tell her story? Is a child a reliable or unreliable narrator? Defend your answer.
2. Jem and Scout call their father by his first name, Atticus, instead of calling him "Dad" or "Daddy." What does this tell you about their relationship?
3. We know that the setting of this story will be Maycomb, Alabama, a sleepy Southern town that's a little rough around the edges. What is the time period of this story? Give evidence to support your conclusion about the time period of this novel.
4. Dill, the children's neighbor during the summer, is described as "a pocket Merlin, whose head teemed with eccentric plans, strange longings, and quaint fancies." What does this mean?
5. Who are the Radleys? Describe their house and yard.
6. Who were the Cunningham boys and what happened to them? What's the irony here?
7. According to Jem, how do you get a turtle to come out of its shell? In what way might this idea be an apt parallel to get people to do what they don't want to do? Give an real-world example to support your answer.
8. Find a simile from this chapter and write down the sentence in which it appears. Yes, I want you to write down the full sentence.

Chapter 2

1. Why does Scout's ability to read and write annoy her teacher, Miss Caroline?
2. Atticus says that country people, like the Cunninghams, were hit the hardest by "the crash." To what is he referring? Why would country people be the ones to suffer the most?
3. Why are professional people also suffering?
4. Why does Jem not want Scout to acknowledge him at school? Is his behavior typical of an older brother?
5. An entailment is an unusual legality that prohibits a piece of land from being sold. It was designed to protect a family's interest in a piece of land because it could only be passed down to a member of the same family, never sold for profit. Jem describes an entailment as "a condition of having your tail in a crack," and Atticus later says that Jem's description is surprisingly accurate. How is this an apt description for the Cunningham family?
6. What do you think of Miss Caroline Fisher as a teacher?



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Harper Lee