To Kill a Mockingbird

Chapter 15

1. What was the “sickening comic aspect” of Atticus’ exchange with the small mob of men? What does this show us about the men in the small mob? About Atticus?

2. Why does Jem openly defy Atticus and refuse to leave?


4. Why was Atticus so affectionate toward Jem, even after Jem disobeyed him?

Chapter 16

1. What does Scout learn about mob mentality?

2. Mr. Dolphus Raymond is evidently a complicated and interesting person. Describe his way of life and comment on its effect upon the town.

3. Why did Mr. Dolphus Raymond’s fiancée die? What does this show the reader about life in Maycomb?

4. Jem says that “mixed” children are sad because they don’t belong anywhere. What does he mean? Is having a sense of belonging important in life? Explain your thoughts.

5. Judge Taylor’s appearance and his ability are two different things. What comment might the author be making in building the judge in this way?

6. Symbolically, what does the physical structure of the courthouse show us about the people of Maycomb?

7. Why didn’t Atticus tell his children that he had to defend Tom Robinson, that he was appointed by the court and didn’t really have a choice about taking the case?

8. Why do the four men give up their seats for Jem, Scout, Dill, and Reverend Sykes? What does this show us?

9. As the examination begins, Atticus’ table is bare. What does this show us?