

Directions: Be familiar with the following questions as you read chapters 24–26. I will choose *one* from each chapter to have an open-note quiz on next Tuesday. You don't have to answer each question, but it would be to your advantage to be familiar with answers to these questions, and take notes if needed. 27 is added if you read ahead and want a preview.



Chapter 24:

1. Which of the ladies at the missionary circle luncheon treats Scout with the most respect? How is that respect shown to Scout?
2. Why does Mrs. Merriweather tell Scout that she is “a fortunate girl”? What difference is most important to Mrs. Merriweather between Maycomb and “J. Grimes Evertt’s land”?
3. According to the ladies in the missionary circle, what are the qualities of a good Christian? What do they think are the qualities of a good citizen?
4. What do we learn about the ladies in the missionary circle from their discussion of the Mruna tribe and the African Americans in Maycomb?
5. To whom is Miss Madue referring when she asks, “His food doesn’t stick going down, does it?” Why does Miss Maudie ask this question? Why is Aunt Alexandra thankful for it?
6. How does Scout compare and contrast the “ladies’ world” and the “world of my father”? In which world is she more comfortable, and why?
7. After hearing about Tom Robinson’s death, for what does Aunt Alexandra criticize the town? How does Miss Maudie answer her frustration? How does Miss Maudie understand her role in helping Maycomb change?

Chapter 25:

1. In chapter 10, Atticus tells Scout and Jem that “it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” Find three examples of that advice being echoed with similar imagery in this chapter. How do these examples help you better understand the meaning of Atticus’ advice and the message that Harper Lee intends readers to take away from the story?
2. How does the town of Maycomb respond to news of Tom’s death? Who do they blame?
3. Reading Mr. Underwood’s editorial about Tom Robinson, Scout concludes, “Tom had been given due process of law to the day of his death . . . but in the secret court of men’s hearts Atticus had no case.” What does she mean? Could she have reached such a conclusion at the beginning of the novel?
4. Consider Scout. Does she believe that laws or the hearts and minds of citizens play a greater role in creating a just society? What do you think?

Chapter 26:

1. Harper Lee reintroduces Boo Radley into the novel in this chapter. What role has he played in the story so far? Is there any connection between the Boo Radley subplot and the story of the Tom Robinson trial so far in the book?
2. How are Scout’s fantasies about meeting Boo Radley different now than they were earlier in the novel? How have her feelings about the Radley house changed? How do you explain these changes? What evidence can you find in this chapter to explain them?
3. How do you explain why the townspeople continue to support Atticus and his children while at the same time seeming to approve of the guilty verdict? What does it suggest about the way the people in Maycomb think about justice?
4. How does Miss Gates explain why Hitler is able to treat Jews so poorly in Germany? What irony is exposed in her explanation? What is she forgetting or ignoring? Why do you think Harper Lee chose to include this current events lesson in the novel? What point was she making?
5. How does Scout define democracy? Do you think her definition is satisfactory? Would you add or change anything?
6. Why is Scout confused when Miss Gates explains, “Over here we don’t believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced”? What is ironic about Miss Gate’s explanation?
7. Why does Jem respond so angrily when Scout brings up the courthouse? How does Atticus explain his behavior?
8. How is Jem’s forgetting similar to Miss Gates’ forgetting? How is it different? What role does forgetting play in allowing us to live our daily lives and be “ourselves”? When is forgetting dangerous?

Chapter 27:

1. Why does Aunt Alexandra continue to worry about the threat posed by Bob Ewell? How does Atticus explain Mr. Ewell's behavior around town? Do you think Atticus is being cautious enough? Look through the chapter and identify any signs of foreshadowing of what might happen.
2. What do Atticus' beliefs about the possible threat that Bob Ewell poses to him suggest about Atticus' outlook on the world?
3. Scout declares that "Maycomb was itself again" in this chapter. In what ways is Maycomb the same as it was before the Tom Robinson trial? In what ways is it different? What must happen in order for a community to "become itself again" after a traumatic or divisive event?