To Kill a Mockingbird Note-Taking Chart & Questions

**For each reading chapter(s) deadline, you will complete the chart and the Comprehension Check Questions ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER. They are due the day of the reading. Failure to complete this will result in your inability to participate in the class discussion.**

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| **Question** | In this space, write the names of the people involved, as well as where and when the story is taking place. Next, write down questions you have about the novel, and any questions about the reading that you do not understand and/or would like your teacher or peers to clarify. Do the Comprehension Check questions or answers leave you with more questions or problems you need to clarify? |
| **Connect** | In this space, write down anything that you find familiar: either a situation you have experiences, a character that reminds you of someone, or an event from the story that is similar to something you have already read. |
| **Summarize** | Retell, in your own words, the action and important details of your reading. Your summary should not be more than one paragraph, or 6-8 sentences long. |
| **Predict** | In this space, write your prediction of what you think will happen next. What will happen next? What effect will this event have on those involved? |
| **Quotes** | Us this space to write any important quotes from the chapter that emphasizes the development of characters, relates to the themes of education, prejudice, femininity, and growing up, or focuses on a symbol, etc. You should include two sentences for each quote which explains the significance. |

**Chapter 1**

1. Name and describe the narrator of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
2. How does the choice of narrator determine the tone of the narrative?
3. Comment on Scout’s relationship with her father, as reveled in this chapter.
4. What do we learn about the setting of this novel in this initial chapter?
5. What “unforgiveable” act do the Radleys commit, which makes the town suspicious of them?
6. Who is Boo Radley?
7. “Miss Stephanie Crawford said she woke up in the middle of the night one time and saw him looking straight through the window at her… said his head was like a skull lookin’ at her.”
   1. Do you think that this is true? Explain why or why not.
   2. How and why have the people of Maycomb demonized Boo Radley?
   3. Why are the children particularly intrigued by Boo’s story?

**Chapter 2-3**

1. Does Scout’s first day at school live up to her expectations? Why or why not?
2. What do we learn about the socioeconomic situation of the people of Maycomb, in chapter two and three?
3. What is your first impression of Miss Caroline? Do you think that she is a good teacher? Why or why not?
4. In response to Scout’s troublesome day, Atticus says: “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view… until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” In your own words, explain what he means.
5. What is your opinion of Atticus’ parenting style?
6. Who are the Ewells and how are they different from the rest of Maycomb society?

**Chapter 4-6**

1. How is Miss Maudie’s view of Boo Radley different to ones we have previously heard?
2. Miss Maudie says: “Why, one sprig of nut grass can ruin a whole yard. Look here. When it comes fall this dries up and the wind blows it all over Maycomb County!” How might this be a metaphor for society?
3. Scout claims that Dill tells “the biggest ones”. What motive might he have for telling such lies?
4. In your own words, explain why Atticus tells the children to stop playing games about Boo Radley’s life. Do you think he was right to do so? Explain why or why not.
5. Why does Mr. Radley think that he was shooting at a “negro” in his garden? What does this tell us about the society in which they live in?

**Chapter 7-8**

1. What evidence is there in the text to support the notice that Scout learns from the advice she is given?
2. When Jem goes back to retrieve his pants from the Radley yard, what is surprising about what he finds? Who do you think is responsible for this surprise?
3. Explain why Miss Maudie laughs when Scout uses the word “morphodite” to describe the snowman. How does this add to the narrator’s childlike tone?
4. Why do Jem and Atticus decide to *not* return the blanket to Boo Radley after the fire?
5. By the end of chapter 8, what is your opinion of Boo Radley? How has it changed from chapter 1?

**Chapter 9-10**

1. Explain the significance and importance of the quote: “Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat up people’s gardens, don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”
2. What’s “Maycomb’s usual disease”? How are we introduced to it in chapter 9?
3. How is the title of the novel explain in chapter 10?
4. How are the children’s perceptions of their father changed by the episode with the mad dog?

**Chapter 11**

1. Why did Jem have to read to Mrs. Dubose? Do you think that the punishment was appropriate?
2. According to Atticus, why was Mrs. Dubose “a great lady”? Use your own words.

**Chapter 12-14**

1. What evidence is there that Jem is growing up?
2. When the children go to First Purchase church, they learn more about Cal.
   1. What do they learn?
   2. They have known her a long time, yet never knew these things—why?
3. Why does Aunt Alexandra come to stay?
4. In your own words, explain Aunt Alexandra’s opinion on breeding and family. Do you agree with her thoughts? Explain why or why not.
5. Why doesn’t Aunt Alexandra allow Scout to visit Calpurnia’s home?

**Chapter 15-16**

1. What is the “nightmare” that has descended upon the children?
2. Why does the mob turn up at the jail? What is their intention?
3. How does Scout defuse the situation outside the jail without realizing it?
4. Why do you think that so many people want to attend the trial?
5. We see that the jury is made up of farmers- is this significant?
6. Does Judge Taylor take his job seriously? Explain your answer fully.

**Chapter 17-19**

1. How has Lee set up the reader to be predisposed to distrusting the Ewells?
2. Why does Atticus ask Bob Ewell to write his name while on the stand?
3. In the way Mayella behaves on the witness stand, what evidence is there that she is lying?
4. Do you pity Mayella? Explain why or why not.
5. How is Tom Robinson disabled and why is this significant?
6. How is Tom’s version of events different from Mayella’s?
7. What is the “subtlety of Tom’s predicament” as Scout sees it?
8. Why does Dill start crying in the courtroom?

**Chapter 20-21**

1. What do you make of Mr. Dolphus Raymond? Do you think that his approach to dealing with racism is the correct one?
2. In your opinion, does the state present sufficient evidence of Tom’s guilt?
3. Does Atticus pity Mayella? Explain your answer with reference to the text.
4. Explain the comparison Scout makes between the waiting courtroom and the episode with the mad dog.
5. The jury take a long time deliberating their verdict- why is this significant?
6. Why does Reverend Sykes insist that Scout stand when her father is passing?

**Chapter 22-23**

1. Why is it significant that Judge Taylor assigned Tom Robinson’s case to Atticus? What do we learn about the judge from this?
2. Why does Atticus not mind that Bob Ewell spat in his face? What does this reveal about his character?
3. Why is Jem so keen on getting rid of the jury systems?
4. Find three quotations from chapter 22 and 23 which link to the theme of womanhood and Scout’s exploration of her feminine identity.
5. “Naw, Jem, I think there’s just one kind of folks.” What does Scout mean by this?
6. “I think I’m beginning to understand why Boo Radley’s stayed shut up in the house all this time… it’s because he wants to stay inside.” What does Jem mean by this and how has he come to this realization?

**Chapter 24-26**

1. Is your opinion of Aunt Alexandra changing at all? Give a reason for your answer.
2. How does Tom die?
3. Hoe does Tom’s death link to the title of the novel?
4. How do people of Maycomb react to the news of Tom’s death?
5. According to Scout, what is the difference between the court where Tom was tried and “the secret courts of men’s hearts”?

**Chapter 27-28**

1. What three things does Bob Ewell do why alarm Aunt Alexandra?
2. In terms of plot structure, how is the attack on the children foreshadowed?
3. In your own words, describe the details of the attack.
4. How does Jem’s broken arm bring the novel full circle? How has Jem changed since the start?
5. How does Bob Ewell die? Do you think that he deserved to die?

**Chapter 29-31**

1. In what ways is Arthur Radley different to whom the children thought he was?
2. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife? Is this what really happened?
3. Heck Tate says that the switchblade he has actually came from a drunken man in town. Is this in any way suspicious? Where else could it have come from?
4. How does the story of *The Gray Ghost* resonate with the themes of the novel?
5. How does Scout show her maturity in these last few chapters? You must mention at least two things.