***To Kill a Mockingbird* Chapter Questions**

*Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

**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?

3. What does Scout’s childish attempt at conversation accomplish? Explain.

**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 fiancé die? What does this show the reader about life in Maycomb?

4. 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?

5. 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?

**Chapter 17**

1. Scout says that Atticus has an “infinite capacity for calming turbulent seas.” What does she mean by this? Is this true?

2. In history, who was Robert E. Lee? Feel free to look up this information and write down what you discover. What’s interesting about this man being Mr. Ewell’s namesake?

3. Reverend Sykes has second thoughts about allowing the children to stay and listen to the graphic testimony, but ultimately relents to Jem and allows them to stay. Why doesn’t Rev. Sykes force them to leave?

4. Judge Taylor refuses to close the courtroom and says, “People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for, and they have the right to subject their children to it...” What does he mean?

5. What’s compelling about the fact that Mr. Ewell is left-handed?

6. Look at the last line of the chapter. What is the old saying that Scout refers to here? How is this an appropriate idiom for this point in the trial?

**Chapter 18**

1. What does Atticus do that makes Mayella Ewell think that he’s making fun of her? What does this show us about Mayella’s life?

2. What is so important about Tom Robinson’s physical appearance? What, according to the testimony, does this prove beyond a doubt?

3. Is Mayella like her father or different from him? In what ways?

4. What does Scout notice about Mayella as she leaves the witness stand and passes Atticus’ defense table?

**Chapter 19**

1. Why does Atticus mention Tom’s previous record of conviction?

2. Explain Tom’s version of the events on the evening of November 21.

3. In that moment with Mayella, Tom is in a no-win situation. Explain the “subtlety of Tom’s predicament.”

4. How is Mr. Link Deas heroic?

5. Why was it a “mistake” for Tom to say that he felt sorry for Mayella?

**Chapter 20**

1. At the beginning of the chapter, what do we find out about Dolphus Raymond? Why does he do this?

2. Why does Mr. Raymond tell Scout and Dill about his life?

3. Why, according to Atticus, did Mayella throw her false accusation at Tom?

4. According to Atticus, what is the only institution that can serve as an equalizer of men? Do you agree with this idea?