

Name: _____

To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 15–17

1. What is the following statement referring to? What does it mean? How does Atticus's tone impact the reader's understanding of the conflict?

“Link, that boy might go to the chair, but he's not going till the truth's told.' Atticus's voice was even. 'And you know what the truth is.'”



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2. At the beginning of chapter 15, Jem says he is “scared about Atticus.” What is Jem afraid of? Explain the factors that lead to Jem’s anxiety. What context clues are present at the beginning of the chapter that suggest his fears are justified?

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3. What literary device is used in the description, and to what effect?

"... the Maycomb jail was a miniature Gothic joke one cell wide and two cells high, complete with tiny battlements and flying buttresses."

- a. characterization, to show the motives of the jailhouse designer
- b. dramatic irony, to emphasize Scout's innocent ignorance
- c. metaphor, to explain how jarringly out of place the jail looks
- d. hyperbole, to emphasize the jail's sheer size and prominence



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5. What can you infer about the “blind spot” Atticus refers to in this quote?

“‘Mr. Cunningham’s basically a good man,’ he said, ‘he just has his blind spots along with the rest of us.’”

- a. It is Mr. Cunningham's willingness to join an angry mob.
- b. It is Mr. Cunningham's failing memory of Scout.
- c. It is Mr. Cunningham's hatred for people of color.
- d. It is Mr. Cunningham's resentment of Atticus's education.

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6. How does Miss Maudie's statement help characterize Miss Stephanie Crawford? How does it develop *both* ladies' characters?

"We asked Miss Maudie to elucidate: she said Miss Stephanie seemed to know so much about the case she might as well be called on to testify."



- d. It is a metaphor to explain that a white person who stands up for black people in Maycomb will be treated as black too.
8. The following interaction happens while Atticus is questioning a witness at the beginning of chapter 17.

*"Judge Taylor broke in. 'He's answered the question three times, Atticus. He didn't call a doctor.'
Atticus said, 'I just wanted to make sure, Judge,' and the judge smiled."*

What does this reveal about the judge's relationship with Atticus?

- a. He is strictly professional, pleased only because Atticus can defend himself.
- b. He does not respect Atticus's approach and thinks he is foolish.
- c. He is unfamiliar with Atticus and does not yet take him seriously.
- d. He knows Atticus well, respecting and thinking positively of him.

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To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 15–17

9. Use the internet to complete the table about Robert E. Lee, the man Bob Ewell is named after. Then explain the significance of the allusion given the plot.

Birthplace & Years Lived	Military Role
Summary of Key Beliefs	



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- a. to clearly demonstrate Mr. Ewell's disrespectful attitude
- b. to distract the jury from weaknesses in Tom Robinson's story
- c. to show that Mr. Ewell was capable of inflicting Mayella's injuries because he is left-hand dominant
- d. to suggest that Mr. Ewell's version of events cannot be trusted because of his limited literacy

ANSWER KEY

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by Harper Lee

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Answers may vary. An example is:

2.

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fears are justified.

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5.



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