

Name: _____

Use with the book:
To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

The latter half of chapter 20 is dedicated to Atticus's closing statements, wherein he spells out his argument and makes a final appeal to the jury.

Each quote below is an excerpt from his closing statement. Using either bullet points or complete sentences, summarize the meaning of each excerpt in your own words. Be sure to acknowledge the key ideas and claims he is making.



(Note: most excerpts are difficult to fully explain in fewer than 3 bullet points or sentences.)

| Quote | Summary |
|--|---------|
| "The state has not produced one iota of medical evidence to the | |
| defendant." | |
| "[Mayella] has committed no crime, she has merely broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society... She knew full well the enormity of her offense, but because her desires were stronger than the code she was breaking, she persisted in breaking it... But in this case she was no child hiding contraband: she struck out at her victim... She must destroy the evidence of her offense." | |



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| Quote | Summary |
|--|---------|
| <p>"The witnesses for the state, with the exception of the sheriff of Maycomb County, have presented themselves to you gentlemen, to this court, in the cynical confidence that their testimony would not be doubted, confident that you gentlemen would go along with them on the</p> | |



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| | |
|--|--|
| <p>as does any human institution, but in this country our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts all men are created equal...</p> <p>Gentlemen, a court is no better than each man of you sitting before me on this jury. A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the men who make it up. I am confident that you gentlemen will review without passion the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family. In the name of God, do your duty."</p> | |
|--|--|

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| Quote | Summary |
|--|--|
| "The witnesses for the state, with the exception of the sheriff of Maycomb County, | examples of key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bob and Mayella Ewell assumed the jury would believe |

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passion the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family. In the name of God, do your duty."

- **All evidence points to Tom Robinson's innocence, so that is the only just conclusion the jury can come to.**