

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

1. Based on Mayella's characterization at the beginning of chapter 18, which statement best describes two of her contrasting traits?

- a. She is kind and wants to do the right thing, but she is too shy to do so.
- b. She is fragile and sensitive, but she is also hardened by her life's circumstances.
- c. She is honest, but her demeanor



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*Apparently Mayella's reputation given her confidence, but it was not her father's brash kind: there was something stealthy about hers, like a steady-eyed cat with a twitchy tail."*

hyperbole      simile      allusion      idiom

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## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

3. Infer why Mayella assumes that Atticus is making fun of her by calling her “ma’am” and “Miss Mayella.” What does her reaction reveal about her self-image?

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4. What is the most likely reason that Atticus seeks to build a picture of the Ewells' home life through his questioning of Mayella?



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Explain its significance as it relates to the trial.

*“Tom Robinson’s powerful shoulders rippled under his thin shirt. He rose to his feet and stood with his right hand on the back of his chair. He looked oddly off balance, but it was not from the way he was standing. His left arm was fully twelve inches shorter than his right, and hung dead at his side. It ended in a small shriveled hand, and from as far away as the balcony I could see that it was no use to him.”*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

6. How is Tom Robinson mostly characterized through Atticus's questioning of him on the witness stand?
- a. unintelligent and dishonest
  - b. fearful but righteously angry
  - c. calm and confident
  - d. honest and charitable
7. Why does the author describe Tom's explanation for helping Mayella Ewell free of charge as a "mistake"? Use your knowledge of the historical context in which the novel is set.
- a. His explanation indicates he was trying to get close to Mayella and gain her trust, giving him a better opportunity to attack her.
  - b. His explanation shows a contradiction between his and the Ewells' versions



- with her, which he was desperate to avoid.
- b. He felt guilty for causing the situation by leading Mayella on, and he did not want to get caught.
  - c. He feared Bob Ewell would become violent or possibly kill him after making false assumptions about the situation.
  - d. He understood the gravity of a white woman and black man being in physical contact, regardless of circumstance, and wanted to end the situation quickly.
9. Why does Mr. Gilmer continuously refer to Tom Robinson as "boy"?
- a. He is emphasizing that Tom and Mayella are relatively close in age, implying that is the reason why Tom was interested in her.
  - b. He is purposefully demonstrating a lack of respect for Tom by belittling him in front of the jury.
  - c. He is trying to lull Tom in a false sense of security with a familial term.
  - d. He wants to intimidate Atticus by showing he has the upper hand.

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Use with the book:  
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## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

10. What does Dill's reaction to Mr. Gilmer at the end of chapter 19 reveal?
- a. It reveals Dill's keen understanding of the complex racial tensions in his time period and community.
  - b. It reveals that Dill dislikes conflict and wishes to avoid it at all costs.
  - c. It reveals Dill is empathetic toward people of all skin colors even when he may not fully understand the situation.
  - d. It reveals Dill is still processing his emotions after running away from home.

11. Which is *not* a reason that Dolphus Raymond pretends to drink?

a. He prefers the company of people who drink, so he pretends in order to



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12. As Atticus begins his closing remarks to the jury, Jem gives his opinion on the outcome. What does Jem think will happen? What does this reveal about him?

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# ANSWER KEY

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

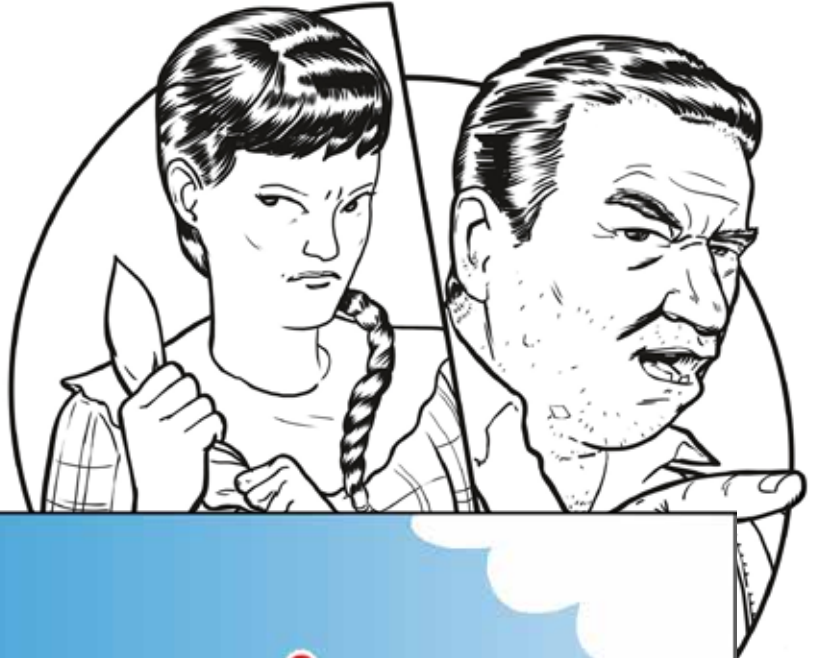
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**b. She is fragile and sensitive, but she is also hardened by her life's circumstances.**

c. She is honest, but her demeanor



2.

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# ANSWER KEY

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## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

3. Infer why Mayella assumes that Atticus is making fun of her by calling her “ma’am” and “Miss Mayella.” What does her reaction reveal about her self-image?

**Answers may vary. An example is: Mayella assumes Atticus is mocking her because she is not used to people using respectful titles for her. She can't imagine someone like**

4.

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5.



**Answers may vary but must indicate that Tom's injured arm makes him incapable of having committed the crime as described, since Mayella's injuries were caused by someone left-handed.**

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8.



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## To Kill a Mockingbird: Chapters 18–20

10. What does Dill's reaction to Mr. Gilmer at the end of chapter 19 reveal?
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11.

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12.

