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*To Kill a Mockingbird* Reading Questions

Chapters 12 – 16

**Chapter 12**

1. What are Scout's complaints about Jem at the beginning of the chapter? What explanation does Scout give for the change?
2. Why did Dill not show up at the beginning of the summer? How does Scout feel about this?
3. Explain the meaning of the cartoon from the *Montgomery Advertiser* described on page 116. Put in your own words, don't use Jem's description.
4. Why is Calpurnia concerned about letting the children attend church alone? What is her solution to the problem?
5. How did First Purchase African M.E. church get its name?
6. Why would Lula have a problem with Calpurnia bringing Jem and Scout to church with her? How did the rest of the congregation feel?

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7. Why is the collection for the next three weeks being given to Helen Robinson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Describe how the congregation at First Purchase sings hymns. Why are they sung this way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What method did Reverend Sykes use to ensure that enough money was collected?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Who taught Cal to read? Who did Cal in return teach to read?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Who is sitting on the front porch when Cal, Jem and Scout return from church? Why do you think she is there?

### **Chapter 13**

12. Why is her (From question #11) explanation for her presence? How does Scout feel about it?

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13. Atticus says, "summer is going to be a hot one." (Pg. 128) He is not talking about the weather, what is he talking about?
  
14. Read Scout's description of Aunt Alexandra on page 129. In your own words, what characteristics does Aunt Alexandra possess? You should add this to your character chart.
  
15. Why did Atticus go into Jem's room that final evening? Why did what he said make Scout cry? What were Atticus's final instructions?

#### **Chapter 14**

16. Who do the children hear talking about the Finch family in town at the beginning of chapter 14? Explain why these comments are being made.
  
17. Why doesn't Aunt Alexandra want Scout to visit Cal at her house?

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18. On page 137, Aunt Alexandra states, "We don't need her now." Who is the "her" she is referring to? Why does she think she is no longer needed or want her around?
  
19. Why does Scout start a fist fight with Jem?
  
20. What does Scout think is under her bed? What does it turn out to actually be? What do the kids get for it?
  
21. Summarize Dill's initial account of how and why he came to Maycomb. Is this a true story? Why or why not?
  
22. What does Jem do that Scout says, "...broke the remaining code of our childhood"? Explain what the code is?
  
23. What disagreement about grownups do Scout and Dill have?

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24. What is Dill's explanation for why Boo Radley has never ran off?

### **Chapter 15**

25. What are the only two reasons Scout gives for grown men to stand outside in the front yard?

26. How does Atticus's "dangerous questions" always start? Why does Scout refer to it this way?

27. Atticus tells Jem that the men in the yard that evening were their friends. For what purpose had they come to the Finch home?

28. Why does Aunt Alexandra think that Atticus defending Tom Robinson is disgracing the family? (Think about more than the mere fact that Tom is black, think about what Scout overhears when she returns from walking Dill home.)

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29. What did Atticus do Sunday evening after supper that interested Scout and Jem?

30. Once summoned by Jem and Scout, why does Dill not say a word until they were on the sidewalk?

31. What is peculiar about the Maycomb jail?

32. A man tells Atticus that Heck Tate is on a "Snipe Hunt". What is a snipe hunt? Why was he sent on such a task?

33. Why is Scout embarrassed when she glanced around at the circle of men surrounding Atticus?

34. Why is Jem refusing to return home when Atticus tells him to? (Think about what he said on page 147)

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35. Why does Mr. Cunningham say, "Let's clear out...Let's get going boys..." after speaking to Scout? What has Scout inadvertently done?

### **Chapter 16**

36. What "subtle change" does Scout notice in her father?
37. What sort of person is Dolphus Raymond?
38. How are some of the townspeople treating the trial? What does Miss Maudie call it?
39. How does Reverend Sykes help the children see and hear the trial? Is he right to do so?
40. Comment on Judge Taylor's attitude to his job. Does he take it seriously or not? Why or why not? Give details/examples.