

Close Family Relationships

To Kill A Mockingbird Characters

The Finch Family

Uncle Jack is Atticus's brother Scout is very fond of him because he is kind and gentle. He supports his brother's decision to defend a Tom.

Aunt Alexandra is Atticus's sister and represents the traditional values of the south—home, family, heredity, gentility and white supremacy.

Uncle Jimmie is Aunt Alexandra's husband. He is ineffective as a husband and father. However, Alexandra preserves the marriage to protect the

Francis is Aunt Alexandra's grandson, who taunts Scout by calling Atticus a "nigger-lover"

Atticus Finch is Scout's father and the central figure in the plot of the story. He is a good father and his children respect him.

Calpurnia (The Finch Family cook and house keeper) is the link between the black and the white worlds of Maycomb. She is practically accepted as a member of the Finch Family.

Jean Louise Finch (nicknamed Scout) is the narrator who tells the story. She is six years old at the beginning of the story. She is a tomboy, and enjoys playing with her brother Jem and Dill. Her mother is dead and she idolizes her father.

Jeremy Finch (Jem) is Scout's older brother. He is ten when the story begins. He is the character who changes the most during the story. The events of the story parallel his transition from a child to a young man.

Charles Baker Harris (Dill) is a friend of Jem and Scout. He is about Scout's age. He is a newcomer to the town of Maycomb, and has been shuffled from relative to relative. During the story he is living with his Aunt Stephanie Crawford.

Who's Who in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

Directions: The first chapter of the novel is its **exposition**, where we meet the important characters and learn the setting. As you read the first chapter, use the chart to record important details about each of the important people and places. You will then be able to refer to your notes as you continue reading the novel.

Character or Place	My Notes
Scout Finch (Narrator)	
Jem Finch	
Atticus Finch	
Maycomb, Alabama	
Calpurnia	
Dill (Charles Baker Harris)	

Character or Place	My Notes
Boo Radley (Arthur)	
The Cunninghams	
Mr. Radley	
Miss Stephanie Crawford	

Say-Mean-Matter: Diction and Setting

A writer's **diction**, or choice of words, helps the reader to travel to the specific place and time that makes up the novel's **setting**. It also creates the tone and mood of the story. Read and analyze each of the following quotations from the first chapter of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to help you get a better understanding of Harper Lee's **diction** and **setting**. For the last row of the chart, use your book to find another quotation that shows how Harper Lee uses language to create her setting, tone, or mood.

<p style="text-align: center;">Say</p> <p>Write your quotation, or the actual words of the author from the text.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mean</p> <p>Paraphrase the text. What is the meaning of the quotation?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matter</p> <p>What effect do the words have on you, the reader? What do they tell you about the setting, mood, or tone of the novel?</p>
<p>"When enough years had gone by to enable us to look back on them, we sometimes discussed the events leading to his accident."</p>	<p>Years later, we were able to think back and talk about what happened that caused Jem's injury.</p>	<p>The language is formal and the narrator is telling us that her family didn't talk about the accident when it happened. It sounds serious. The narrator is also telling us about something that happened in the past.</p>
<p>"Being Southerners, it was a source of shame to some members of the family that we had no recorded ancestors on either side of the Battle of Hastings."</p>		
<p>"Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square."</p>		
<p>"People moved slowly then. They ambled across the square, shuffled in and out of the stores around it, took their time about everything. A day was twenty-four hours long but seemed longer."</p>		

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 2-8

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
2	<i>Why does Scout end up in trouble on her first day of school?</i>
3	<p><i>What does Scout say to Walter Cunningham that gets her into trouble?</i></p> <p><i>Why are the Ewells allowed special privileges?</i></p> <p><i>What compromise does Atticus make with Scout?</i></p>
4	<p><i>What does Scout share at the end of the chapter?</i></p> <p><i>Who was inside the house?</i></p>
5	<i>What reasons does Atticus give when he tells the children to leave Boo alone and stop playing the Boo Radley game?</i>
6	<i>What explanation does Jem give for his missing pants?</i>

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
7	<p data-bbox="289 268 669 300"><i>What does Jem confess to Scout?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 409 748 441"><i>List the items found in the tree knothole.</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 550 824 581"><i>Why does Mr. Radley fill the hole with cement?</i></p>
8	<p data-bbox="289 747 646 779"><i>How does the weather change?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 888 724 919"><i>How do Jem and Scout spend the day?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 1029 613 1060"><i>What happens to Mr. Avery?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 1169 602 1201"><i>What does Jem tell Atticus?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 1310 862 1341"><i>Who put the blanket on Scout? How do you know?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 9-10

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
9	<p><i>What does Atticus tell Scout about his reasons for defending Tom?</i></p> <p><i>Who was Cousin Ike Finch?</i></p> <p><i>Describe what happens at Finch's Landing.</i></p> <p><i>What do Jem and Scout get for Christmas?</i></p>
10	<p><i>Why does Scout think Atticus is feeble?</i></p> <p><i>Who does Scout try to shoot?</i></p> <p><i>Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 11-14

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
11	<p><i>Why does Jem destroy Mrs. Dubose's flowers?</i></p> <p><i>When Atticus states that Mrs. Dubose is a model of real courage, what does he mean?</i></p>
12	<p><i>What is linin'? Why is it done?</i></p> <p><i>What does Scout notice about Calpurnia?</i></p>
13	<p><i>Why does Aunt Alexandra come to visit?</i></p> <p><i>How does Aunt Alexandra explain human behavior?</i></p>
14	<p><i>Why does Aunt Alexandra want to dismiss Calpurnia?</i></p> <p><i>How does Atticus explain rape to Scout?</i></p> <p><i>Why does Dill run away from home?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 15-16

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
15	<p data-bbox="289 394 837 426"><i>What is the mood in Maycomb before the trial?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 531 529 562"><i>Why is Jem worried?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 667 646 699"><i>How does Scout stop the mob?</i></p>
16	<p data-bbox="289 873 594 905"><i>Who is Dolphus Raymond?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 1010 1179 1041"><i>Explain the following statement: "He really intends to defend Tom Robinson."</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 17-19

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Text-Dependent Questions
17	<p><i>What does Atticus ask Mr. Tate?</i></p> <p><i>Where do the Ewells live?</i></p> <p><i>Why does Atticus want Mr. Ewell to write his name?</i></p>
18	<p><i>Why does Mayella think Atticus is making fun of her?</i></p> <p><i>What does Mayella want Tom Robinson to chop?</i></p>
19	<p><i>How does Tom Robinson place his hand on the Bible?</i></p> <p><i>What happened to his arm?</i></p> <p><i>Why does Tom Robinson visit the Ewell place?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 20-21

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
20	<p data-bbox="277 390 963 422"><i>Why does Dolphus Raymond pretend to be drinking liquor?</i></p> <p data-bbox="277 573 857 604"><i>Why does Jem feel confident that Atticus will win?</i></p>
21	<p data-bbox="277 777 1125 808"><i>As they wait for the verdict, Scout thinks of earlier events. What are they?</i></p> <p data-bbox="277 959 784 991"><i>What does Reverend Sykes say about court?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 22-25

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
22	<p><i>Who sends food over to the Finches? Why?</i></p> <p><i>What does Atticus mean when he says, "only children weep"?</i></p>
23	<p><i>What is Bob Ewell's threat?</i></p> <p><i>Where is Tom Robinson?</i></p> <p><i>What bill will have to be paid "one of these days"?</i></p>
24	<p><i>Describe the conversation at the Missionary Society meeting.</i></p> <p><i>What event happens at the end of the chapter?</i></p> <p><i>How do Miss Maudie, Aunt Alexandra and Scout handle the news?</i></p>

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
25	<i>Explain the statement, "Tom was tried in the secret courts of men's hearts." In what way are hearts like courts?</i>

Checking for Understanding Questions: Chapters 26-30

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
26	<p><i>Describe the irony of Miss Gates's statement, "We (American People) don't believe in persecuting anyone."</i></p> <p><i>Why does Jem get upset with Scout?</i></p>
27	<p><i>What does Bob Ewell start doing?</i></p> <p><i>Describe the costume Scout will wear for the pageant. What is it made of?</i></p>
28	<p><i>Describe the mood at the beginning of the chapter.</i></p> <p><i>How does Scout's costume save her life?</i></p>
29	<p><i>How did Boo know Jem and Scout were in trouble?</i></p> <p><i>How does Scout describe Boo?</i></p>

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
30	<p data-bbox="289 268 873 300"><i>Why is Atticus so worried throughout the chapter?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 470 578 501"><i>Who stabbed Bob Ewell?</i></p> <p data-bbox="289 669 927 701"><i>What does Scout compare Boo's potential exposure to?</i></p>

Checking for Understanding: Chapter 31

Directions: As you read each chapter of the novel, answer the questions below.

Chapter	Checking for Understanding Questions
31	<p data-bbox="285 401 889 432"><i>What words does Scout use to describe Boo Radley?</i></p> <p data-bbox="285 600 824 632"><i>What is Atticus' final statement about people?</i></p> <p data-bbox="285 800 1101 831"><i>Where does Atticus spend the night? What does this tell us about him?</i></p>

Directions: Complete the following information during and after watching the documentary **THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL**.

A. 5W's & How

WHO are the key people in the Emmett Till case?	WHAT are the key facts of the Emmett Till case?
WHERE did the event take place?	WHEN did the event take place?
WHY did these events happen?	HOW did this event happen?

B. Connections to Harper Lee's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Directions: Identify four similarities between the case of Emmett Hill and the trial of Tom Robinson. Please write in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4.

C. Questions for Discussion

Directions: Answer the following questions in sentence format and be prepared to discuss your answers in class.

1. Describe the atmosphere in the courtroom where the trial took place. Was it possible for evidence to be heard impartially? Why or why not?
2. What did it take for Mose Wright to stand alone and point out the two men who had taken Emmett Till from his home? Could you have done the same?
3. What difference might an integrated jury have made?
4. What role did the Black press play in publicizing the Till murder?

Name: _____

Writing Prompt for To Kill a Mockingbird

Directions

People sometimes form opinions or have attitudes against others based on lack of knowledge or on social codes (You believe something because others, sometimes adults, tell you to believe that.). These attitudes based on lack of knowledge and lack of personal experience are sometimes referred to as prejudice. Prejudice means forming an opinion without looking at the facts carefully. Prejudice is often directed at different races (black and white), different social classes (rich and poor) and/or different religions (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, etc.). But often negative attitudes or prejudice can be combated through learning more about and experiencing unfamiliar people, situations and/or ideas. Think about an attitude you have had that you changed after you learned more about the person, situation, or idea.

Write about the theme: Changing Attitudes through Knowledge

Do one of the following:

- Write about a time, when you changed a negative attitude toward a person or idea after you learned more about that person or idea.

OR

- Tell how a person you admire changed a negative attitude toward a person or idea after s/he learned more about that person or idea.

OR

- Persuade readers of the importance of basing attitudes on wide knowledge and experience. (Give specific examples).

OR

- Write about the theme in your own way.

Use examples from real life, from what you have read or watched, or from your imagination. Your writing will be read by interested adults.

Use the paper provided for notes, freewriting, outlining, clustering, or writing your rough draft. If you need to make a correction, cross out the error and write the correction above or next to it.

You should give careful thought to revision (rethinking ideas) and proofreading (correcting spelling, capitalization, and punctuation). Use the checklist and rubric to help improve your writing.

Name _____

Period _____

Author Biography: Harper Lee (1926-)

Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville, Alabama on April 26, 1926 to Amasa Coleman Lee, a lawyer and former newspaper editor, and Frances Finch Lee. Harper Lee attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, then transferred to the University of Alabama and studied law from 1945 to 1949. She also spent one year abroad to study at Oxford University in England, but quit school to move to New York six months before receiving her law degree.

During the 1950s she worked as an airline reservation clerk while concentrating on a career writing short stories about her life in the South. Encouraged by her editor, she finally put her short stories together in a collection that eventually became the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

After *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960, the book became an international success, and was eventually translated into over thirty languages. It won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1961 and was adapted for screen in 1962. The film, starring Gregory Peck, was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Peck received the Academy Award for Best Actor.

In 1966, Lee was appointed to the National Council of Arts by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and has received several honorary doctorates from universities such as the University of Alabama, Sewanee University, and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has remained her only published novel.

Comprehension Check: Exploring Expository Writing

Directions: After reading the article above, answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. When and where was Harper Lee born? _____

2. Where did Lee attend college and what was the result of her studies? _____

3. How old was Lee when *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published? _____

4. What awards did the novel and the film version receive? _____

5. What is an honorary doctorate? (You may have to look this up in a dictionary). Why do you think Lee might receive such an honor? _____

6. What 2 questions would you ask Harper Lee if you were granted an interview with the author? _____

7. On a separate piece of paper, use the information in this brief biography to construct a timeline of Harper Lee's life and work. Be sure to include dates for each major event.