***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Part I Class Discussion Questions**

**Chapter 1**

1. Why does Harper Lee begin with the argument between Jem and Scout over how Jem’s arm was broken? How do Scout and Jem’s views differ?
2. What are the children’s boundaries? As the novel progresses, these boundaries will expand. Why do you think that is?
3. One of the themes of the novel is courage. How is that theme evident in this chapter?

**Chapter 2**

1. One of the themes in the novel is education. What type of education does Miss Caroline represent? Do you think Harper Lee finds this type of education important? Why or why not?
2. A motif is a recurring idea or thought that acts as a unifying device and develops a commentary on ideas in the novel. One of the motifs in the novel is blind spots – some characters have an inability to “see” things. Explain Miss Caroline’s blind spot.
3. The novel is filled with many historical allusions. Give an example of a historical allusion from Chapter 2. Be sure to explain what it is alluding to.

**Chapter 3**

1. Why do you think Harper Lee continually mentions the Radley place?
2. Explain Calpurnia’s place in the Finch family. What are her duties? What roles does she fulfill?
3. In this chapter, there is another example of Miss Caroline’s blind spot. What is it? Why?
4. Another important motif in the novel is point of view. Explain how this is evident in Chapter 3.
5. The last line of Chapter 3 is a “power line.” What do you think a “power line” is? Why do you think this line is a “power line”?

**Chapter 4**

1. Another major motif in the novel has to do with secrets. What incident in Chapter 4 relates to this motif? Why?
2. Do you agree with Jem when he says, “Grown folks don’t have hidin’ places”? Why? (pg. 35)

1. There is another “power line” on page 39. What is it? Why do you think this is a “power line”?
2. The novel deals with prejudice of all kinds – racial, gender, and social. In Chapter 4, there is an example of gender prejudice. What is it? Explain.

**Chapter 5**

1. Many of the characters in the novel can be classified as “reasonable” or “unreasonable.” Define what each of these terms mean. Which type of character is Miss Maudie?
2. How does Atticus treat his children when they have a problem? Why? Why do you think they call him Atticus?

**Chapter 6**

1. What example of gender prejudice do we have in this chapter?
2. What is the author’s purpose in keeping the reader at home with Scout while Jem goes back to get his pants?
3. A major motif in the novel is the idea of “worrying.” Throughout the novel, different characters will tell Scout that “it’s not time to worry, yet.” What does this line mean? When and where do we first see this line in this chapter?
4. How is the theme of courage displayed in this chapter?

**Chapter 7**

1. One symbol in the novel is a watch. So far, who has given Jem a watch? Do you see a connection between these two characters? How?

**Chapter 8**

1. The children are threatened by two natural occurrences in this chapter. What are they, and how do the children feel threatened by them?

1. There is an example of one of the major motifs – secrets, worrying, blind spots – in this chapter. What is it? Explain.

**Chapter 9**

1. This chapter steers away from the Radley’s and introduces a new plot strand. What is it?
2. A new motif is introduced in this chapter – losing battles. What “battle” does Scout lose?
3. How do you think Atticus and Miss Maudie shape the children’s ideas about race? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. How does Atticus demonstrate the theme of courage in this chapter? What motif could this also tie into?
5. What motif is revealed through Scout’s fight with Francis? Explain.

**Chapter 10**

1. Another important motif in the novel is that of the mockingbird. What does the mockingbird represent? Which characters could be called mockingbirds?
2. What is the author’s purpose in including the mad dog scene?
3. Blindness is another motif used throughout the novel. What character is associated with this motif in this chapter? Explain.

**Chapter 11**

1. The first paragraph introduces the boundary motif. How have the children’s boundaries changed? Why is this important?

1. What is the author’s purpose in including the incident with Mrs. Dubose?
2. What motif is alluded to on pg. 104? Explain.
3. What is Atticus trying to avoid by taking the Tom Robinson case? Explain.
4. What is the author’s purpose in having Atticus mention the Radley house to Scout towards the end of pg. 105?
5. Why do Jem and Atticus have different ideas about what constitutes a “lady”?