***To Kill a Mockingbird* Part II Class Discussion Questions**

**Chapter 12**

1. What does Cal begin calling Jem? Why is this significant?
2. What example of gender prejudice do we have in this chapter?
3. What example of the boundary motif is there in this chapter? (Hint: think about where this chapter takes place).
4. What does the incident with Lula show about Maycomb? What is the author’s purpose in including this incident?
5. How does Reverend Sykes treat the Finch children? Why?
6. What example of the secrets motif is there in this chapter? Explain.

**Chapter 13**

1. How do Aunt Alexandra’s views of the Finch family contrast with Atticus’ views of the Finch family?

1. Consider the quote on pg. 128: “the summer’s going to be a hot one.” What is Atticus inferring by using the word “hot”?
2. What is the author’s purpose in including the description of Maycomb and its people on pgs. 129-132?
3. On pg. 134 what motif do we have an example of? Explain.

**Chapter 14**

1. What is significant about the following quote by Jem on pg. 138? “It’s different with grown folks, we…”
2. What is inferred by Scout when she says that Jem “…broke the remaining code of our childhood”? (pg. 141)

1. Explain how Dill is a mockingbird.
2. How does Cal illustrate the secrets motif in this chapter?
3. On pg. 144, what narrative technique does Harper Lee use? Why does she do this?

1. Overall, chapter 14 represents something significant about the Finch family. What do you think that is?

**Chapter 15**

1. What is the intent of the mob that shows up at the Finch house? How do you know?

1. On pg. 147, Atticus mentions the KKK? What motif could the KKK be an example of? Explain.

1. On. pg. 148, Scout says that she doesn’t want to bother Boo. What does this tell us about Scout?
2. How is the group of men that shows up at the jail different from the earlier group of men that had shown up at the Finch house?

1. Re-read pg. 152. How are Jem and Atticus alike? What does this say about Jem?
2. What motif does Scout allude to when she is talking to Mr. Cunningham about entailment?
3. What does the last sentence of chapter 15 signify?

**Chapter 16**

1. What is significant about the following statement by Scout on pg. 156: “the full meaning of the night’s events hit me…”?
2. Atticus says that Mr. Underwood “despises Negroes” yet he was protecting Atticus and Tom. Why was he protecting them? Would you classify him as being a reasonable or unreasonable character? Why?

1. How has Scout noticed that Atticus is changing? Why is he changing?

1. On pg. 157, what motif is alluded to when Atticus talks about Mr. Cunningham? Explain.
2. What earlier incident in the novel can the mob at the jail be compared to? Why?

1. Miss Maudie compares the Tom Robinson trial to a “Roman carnival.” What does she mean by this?

1. Why didn’t Atticus tell the children that the court had appointed him to defend Tom?

**Chapter 17**

1. On pg. 170, it says that the “Ewells lived as guests of the county in prosperity as well as in the depths of a depression.” What does this mean?

1. What do Mayella’s red geraniums seem to suggest about her?

1. Scout says that she and Jem “…acquired no traumas from watching our father.” Why? What character alluded to this quality about Atticus earlier in the novel?

**Chapter 18**

1. On pg. 181-182, Mayella tells Atticus to stop “mockin’” her. What does she mean by this, and what is significant about the author’s choice of the word “mockin’”?
2. Think about how Scout and Mayella feel about their fathers. Do you see any similarities between their feelings? Explain. (Hint: refer to Mayella’s comments about her father on pg. 183).
3. What is significant about the following line on pg. 184: “Atticus’ glasses had slipped a little…”?
4. What does Atticus imply about the relationship between Bob and Mayelle Ewell?

**Chapter 19**

1. At the beginning of Tom’s testimony, Atticus brings out Tom’s criminal past. Why? What motif does this fit into?
2. Why does Scout think Mayella is a “mixed child”? What does this show us about Scout?
3. On. pg. 195, what motif/theme does Tom allude to during his testimony?
4. After Tom’s testimony, what else has been implied about the relationship between Bob and Mayella Ewell?
5. Explain how Tom is a mockingbird.

**Chapter 20**

1. What motif is Mr. Raymond an example of? Explain.
2. On pg. 201, Mr Raymond is talking about the trial and says, “Cry about the simple hell people give other people…” What other family in Maycomb could this quote describe? Explain.
3. What is significant about the fact that Dill and Scout think Mr. Raymond is a decent man after getting to know him?

**Chapter 21**

1. What is significant about the imagery in Scout’s dream?
2. Why does the black community stand when Atticus leaves the courtroom?

**Chapter 22**

1. On pg. 213, what motif is there an example of?
2. What is symbolic about Miss Maudie giving Jem a piece of cake from the big cake?
3. What is significant about the fact that Dill wants to be a clown when he grows up? What motif does this illustrate?

**Chapter 23**

1. What motif is mentioned on pg. 219? Explain.
2. Explain Atticus’ and Aunt Alexandra’s definition of trash.
3. What does the difference between Jem and Scout’s theory of social organization show?

**Chapter 24**

1. What motif does the Missionary Society exemplify? Explain.
2. What theme does Miss Maudie illustrate when she deals with the Missionary Society ladies?
3. In this chapter, what does Scout learn from Cal, Miss Maudie, and Aunt Alexandra? Why is this ironic?

**Chapter 25**

1. In this chapter, the mockingbird motif is broadened to include other helpless creatures. What are they, and which characters do they represent?
2. What motif is illustrated by the following quote: “he likened Tom’s death to the senseless slaughter of songbirds by hunters and children”?
3. What motif is illustrated by the following quote: “in the secret courts of men’s hearts, Atticus had no case”?

**Chapter 26**

1. Scout says that, “people were just peculiar, I withdrew from them, and never though about them until I was forced to.” What character is she now acting like? What character has this same feeling at the end of this chapter?
2. What theme is reinforced by the episode concerning Miss Gates’ lesson on democracy and Hitler? Explain.

**Chapter 27**

1. What type of allusion is there on pg. 248? Explain.
2. Atticus and Aunt Alexandra do not accompany Jem and Scout to the pageant, and Scout says, “Thus began our longest journey together.” What literary device is this an example of?

**Chapter 28**

1. How does the author create suspense at the beginning of the chapter? Cite specific examples.
2. On pg. 259, what illustration of the “growing up” theme is there?
3. How does the author continue to create suspense throughout the chapter? Cite specific examples.
4. What does it say about Aunt Alexandra that she brings Scout her overalls to put on after the attack?

**Chapter 29**

1. Do you agree with Heck Tate’s statement, “There’s just some kind of men you have to shoot before you can say hidy to ‘em. Even then, they ain’t worth the bullet it took to shoot ‘em”? Why?

**Chapter 30**

1. Why doesn’t Atticus want to cover up the events of the attack? What does this show us about him?
2. Why is the line, *“God damn it, I’m not thinking of Jem!*” in italics?
3. Heck says, “Mr. Finch, taking the one manwho’s done you and this town a great service an’ draggin him with his shy ways into the limelight – to me, that’s a sin. It’s a sin and I’m not about to have it on my head.” What motif does this illustrate? Explain.
4. Why is Scout’s comment, “Well, it’d be sort of like shootin’ a mockingbird, wouldn’t it” such an important statement?

**Chapter 31**

1. Why does Scout never see Boo again?
2. At the end of pg. 278, Scout reflects on all of the things that Boo gave them, and she says that they had given him nothing in return. Is this true? Why?
3. On pg. 281, Atticus tells Scout, “most people are, Scout, when you finally see them.” What motif does this illustrate?