

***To Kill a Mockingbird* Chapter 9: The Tom Robinson plot line**

Scout is introduced to the fact that her father is defending a black man on the playground

Cecil Jacobs: “He had announced in the schoolyard the day before that Scout Finch’s daddy defended niggers” (99).

Tom Robinson, a young black man, is accused of raping one of the Ewells

Racial Prejudice: “...but there is high talk around town to the effect that I shouldn’t do much about defending this man” (100).

Atticus’s Morals: “...if I didn’t I couldn’t hold my head up in town, I couldn’t represent this country in the legislature, I couldn’t tell you or Jem not to do something again” (100).

“Atticus, are we going to win it?”

‘No, honey.’

‘Then why--’

‘Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us to try not to win’” (101). Atticus reveals that he will likely lose the case due to racial prejudice, but defending Tom is the right thing to do.

The Finch Family:

Aunt Alexandra-- concerned about the way Atticus is raising the kids (especially Scout-- unladylike)

Cousin Francis-- “I guess it ain’t your fault if Uncle Atticus is a nigger-lover besides, but I’m here to tell you it certainly does mortify the family” (110). Francis is obviously just repeating things

Aunt Alexandra must have said. Even his own family disapproves

Uncle Jack-- gives Scout a spanking without hearing her side-- Scout teaches him a lesson about not assuming something just because Scout is a child-- age vs. youth

“...You know as what’s going to happen as well as I do Jack, and I hope and pray that I can get Jem and Scout through it without bitterness, and most of all, without catching Maycomb’s usual disease” (117).

- Maycomb’s usual disease: Racism
- Foreshadows difficulty to come

To Kill a Mockingbird* Chapters 10-11: Character Development of Atticus Finch*Chapter 10**

- Ageism- prejudice or discrimination on the basis of a person's age.
- The kids think Atticus is too old/are disappointed that he is not more active

The Title

Atticus: "I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember, it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" (119).

Miss Maudie: "'Your father's right,' she said. 'Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy, They don't eat up people's gardens, don't rest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it is a sin to kill a mockingbird'" (119)

- Mockingbirds-- symbolic of innocence in the text

Tim Johnson and One-Shot Finch

"If your father's anything, he's civilized in his heart. Marksmanship's a gift of God, a talent--oh, you have to practice to make it perfect, but shootin's different from playing the piano or the like. I think maybe he put his gun down when he realized that God had given him an unfair advantage over most living things. I guess he decided he wouldn't shoot till he had to, and he had to today" (130).

Chapter 11

Mrs. Dubose: "...not only a Finch waiting on tables but one in the courthouse lawing for niggers!... Your father's no better than the niggers and trash he works for" (135).

- The trouble that Atticus foreshadowed begins

"...when summer comes you'll have to keep your head up for far worse things... it's not fair for you and Jem, I know that, but sometimes we have to make the best of things, and the way we conduct ourselves when the chips are down--well, all I can say is, when you and Jem are grown, maybe you'll look back on this with some compassion and some feeling that I didn't let you down. This case, Tom Robinson's case, is something that goes to the essence of a man's conscience--Scout, I couldn't go to church and worship God if I didn't try to help that man" (139).

"...nigger-lover is just one of those terms that don't mean anything--like snot-nose. It's hard to explain--ignorant, trashy people use it when they think somebody's favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It's slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody" (114).

Name: _____

Ms. Iacullo and Ms. Reid
English 9 CP

“‘You aren’t really a nigger-lover then, are you?’
‘I certainly am. I do my best to love everybody’” (144).

Mrs. Dubose

- trying to break an addiction to morphine

“She said she was going to leave this world beholden to nothing and nobody. Jem, when you’re sick as she was, it’s all right to take anything to make it easier, but it wasn’t all right for her. She said she meant to break herself of it before she died, and that’s what she did” (148).

“... I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what” (149).

- Atticus prepares them for the difficulty of the trial