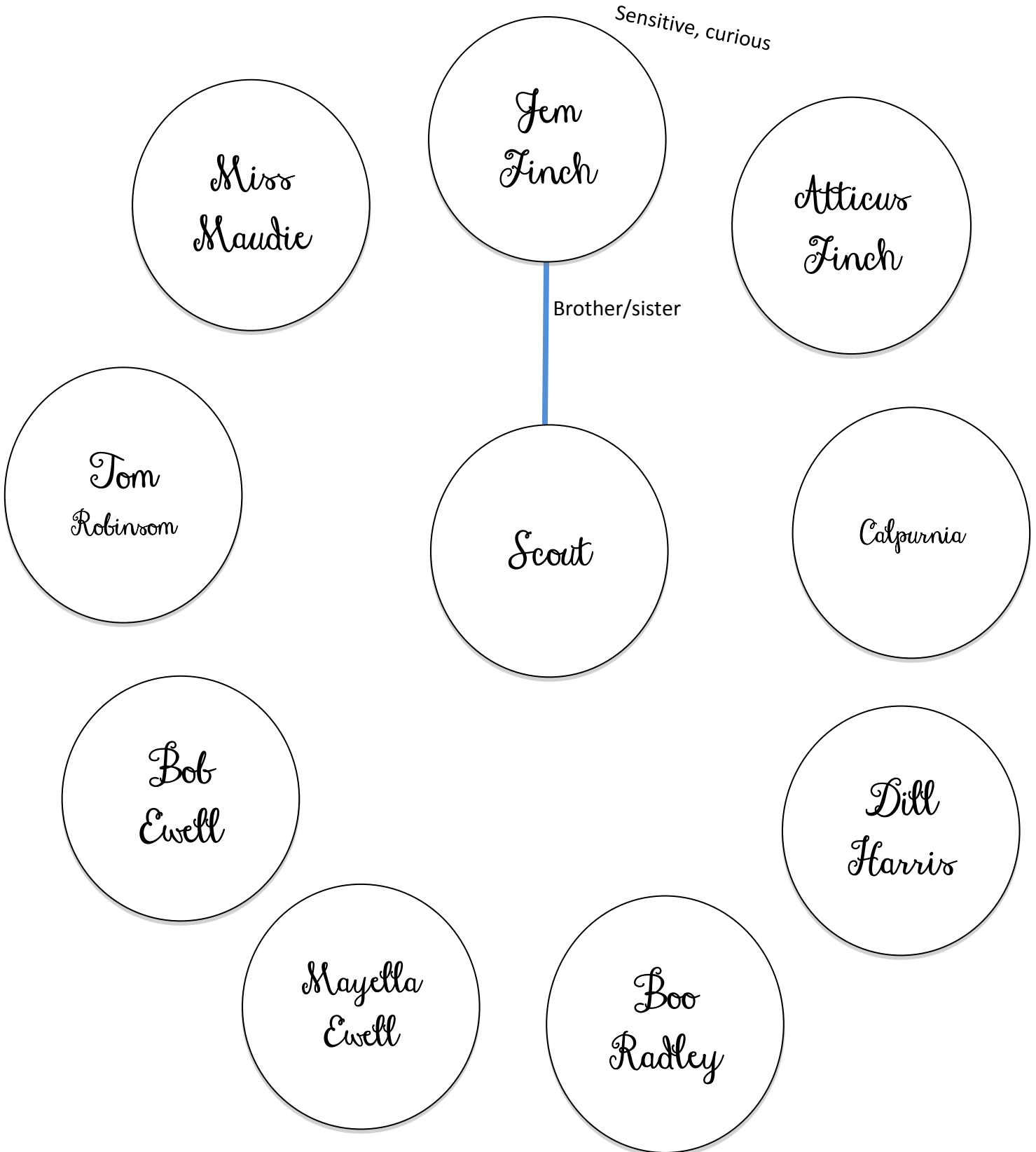


Notebook Check #1: Cast of Characters

Near each character's name, write adjectives that describe this character, his or her personality, and his or her actions. Then, connect to characters with a line. On the line, describe their relationship. One connection has been done for you.



Notebook Check #2: *To Kill a Mockingbird*: Close Reading of Chapter 3 Walking in Another Person's Skin and Shoes

1. What does Atticus mean by the following statement?

"First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - ... until you climb into his skin and walk around."

(30)

Atticus means that you get along better with people when you are able to empathize with them, to imagine what it would be like if you were in their situation. We might be less judgemental.

2. Which characters in the book are Scout having trouble understanding? Who is she not getting along with and why?

A character Scout disagrees with:	Reason she disagrees/ What she doesn't like about the person	What is really going on? What would Scout see if she empathized (saw the situation from the person's point of view) with the character?
1.		
2.		
3.		

3. Reread the following discussion between Atticus and Scout.

"You, Miss Scout Finch, are of the common folk. You must obey the law." He said that the Ewells were members of an exclusive society made up of Ewells, in certain circumstances the common folk judiciously allowed them certain privileges by the simple method of becoming blind to some of the Ewell's activities. They didn't have to go to school, for one thing. Another thing, Bob Ewell was permitted to hunt and trap out of season.

"Atticus, that's bad," I said. In Maycomb County, hunting out of season was a misdemeanor at law, a capital felony in the eyes of the populace.

"It's against the law, all right," said my father, "and it's certainly bad, but when a man spends his relief checks on green whiskey his children have a way of crying from hunger pains. I don't know of any landowner around here who begrudges those children any game their father can hit."

"Mr. Ewell shouldn't do that - "

"Of course he shouldn't, but he'll never change his ways. Are you going to take out your disapproval on his children?" (31)

a) What is Atticus' argument about holding all people equally accountable to the law?

b) Why does he believe that the law applies to Scout but not to Mr. Ewell?

c) How do the identities (ages, occupations, roles) of the characters of Atticus and Scout affect how they view right and wrong in this passage?

5. Do you agree with the argument that there are times when the most just (fair) course of action is to bend the rules?
Should the law always be applied evenly to all people at all times? Or are there cases in which bending the rules is actually the "right" thing to do?

Notebook Check #3: Characterization

Character Traits: **Jem**

1. Circle the adjectives that you think Scout possesses and using your answers complete the chart on the next page.

Aloof	Difficult	wise
Conventional	Practical	Compassionate
Courageous	Reliable	Understanding
Energetic	Resourceful	Thoughtful
Honest	Intelligent	Simple
Insensitive	Sensitive	Imaginative
Methodical	Diligent	Persistent
Confident	Conscientious	Stubborn
Coarse	Tender	Reasonable
Cautious	Callous	Impudent

Of the traits that you circled, which did you infer from the character's ACTIONS?

Cautious, courageous, compassionate, understanding

Which of these traits did you learn of because the narrator or another character told you of them?

Practical, imaginative, intelligent

Which of the traits did you learn of because the character herself told you?

none

Of the three possibilities, which is the most reliable way to judge a character and which is the least reliable? Explain

The most reliable way to judge Jem is from his actions. The least reliable way is from what others say about him. In evaluating other characters, it may be that what they themselves say is the least reliable.

Character Traits: Scout

1. Circle the adjectives that you think Jem possesses and using your answers complete the chart on the next page.

Aloof	Difficult	wise
Conventional	Practical	Compassionate
Courageous	Reliable	Understanding
Energetic	Resourceful	Thoughtful
Honest	Intelligent	Simple
Insensitive	Sensitive	Imaginative
Methodical	Diligent	Persistent
Confident	Conscientious	Stubborn
Coarse	Tender	Reasonable
Cautious	Callous	Impudent

Of the traits that you circled, which did you infer from the character's ACTIONS?

Honest, difficult, courageous, intelligent, understanding, insensitive, impudent, resourceful

Which of these traits did you learn of because the narrator or another character told you of them?

intelligent

Which of the traits did you learn of because the character himself told you?

none

Of the three possibilities, which is the most reliable way to judge a character and which is the least reliable? Explain.

Characterization Log: Atticus

Chapter	Behavior/Action/Quotation	Personality Trait
1	"When he started practicing law he lived very frugally so he could send his younger brother Jack to college or medical school."	Sense of duty, loyal to family, generous
2	"That spring when we found a crokersack full of turnip greens, Atticus said Mr. Cunningham had more than paid him."	Understanding, compassionate
3	"If you'll concede the necessity of going to school, we'll go on reading every night just as we always have."	Atticus is a good negotiator and parent.
4	"Atticus Finch is the same in his house as he is on the public street."	Honest, straight-forward, nothing to hide
5	Atticus grinned dryly. "You just told me," he said. "You stop this right now, every one of you."	Clever lawyer, capable of wrestling the truth from a person
6	"I—it's like this, Scout," he muttered, "Atticus ain't ever whipped me since I can remember. I wanta keep it that way."	Inspires his children to live up to his expectations
7	"As Atticus had once advised me to, I tried to climb into Jem's skin and walk around in it..."	Atticus helps his children mature without directing them too much.

Notebook Check 8 : Plot Tracker Part 1

Plot Line #1 - The Mystery of Boo Radley							Emerging Themes
Jem and Scout meet Dill	Dill dares Jem to touch the Radley house	The children act out Boo's life story	Jem and Scout find gifts in the oak tree	Miss Maudie remembers Arthur as a boy	Boo Radley covers Scout with a blanket		The brotherhood
Plot Line #2 – Jem Grows Up							
Jem cries when Mr. Radley fills in the knot in the tree	Jem loses his pants	Jem tells Scout that he found his pants folded and mended	Atticus kills the rabid dog	Jem reads to Mrs. Dubose			Loss of innocence Coming of Age
Plot Line #3 – The Trial							
Scout fights with Francis	Scout fights with Cecil Jacobs						Man's inhumanity to man The nature of evil

To Kill a Mockingbird Reading Guide

Chapters 1-3 Questions

1. Our narrator is Scout, a girl who will grow from age 6 to almost 9 during the story. What do you suppose we, as the readers, should be aware of as we listen to Scout tell her story? Is a child a reliable or unreliable narrator? Defend your answer.

Since Scout is a child, we should remember that she'll have a limited view/understanding of the world around her. In some ways, children are more open and honest than adults. In other ways, though, they are not able to fully make sense of the troubling things they see and are more likely than adults to accept someone's words without thinking critically about those words. A child's view of the world is delightful and we will be charmed by Scout. We will, though, need to read between the lines in this book at times as Scout struggles to understand things that the more mature reader will already understand. Scout is an unreliable narrator, so the reader will need to do some work to determine that is – and isn't – true. Jen's exaggeration of Boo Radley's appearance is a good example of this. Scout believes her older brother; we, however, should be more skeptical.

2. Jem and Scout call their father by his first name, Atticus, instead of calling him "Dad" or "Daddy." What does this tell you about their relationship?

The children's mom has died and Atticus is a single father. Students will probably guess that Atticus is a straight-forward or even stern man. They might guess that the relationship between the children and their father is more business-like and less warm/fuzzy.

3. Who are the Radleys? Describe their house and yard.

The Radleys are a family that live on the same block as Jem and Scout. The family is shrouded in mystery involving rumors about Arthur "Boo" Radley, the family's son who is hardly ever seen. The family's house was once white, but now is gray with age and neglect. The yard is unkempt. This is the creepy house on the block (seems like every neighborhood has one, no?) and the children fear it.

4. Who were the Cunningham boys and what happened to them? What's the irony here?

The Cunninghams were rowdy troublemaking teens who were arrested, along with Arthur "Boo" Radley. Boo was taken home and locked away from the world by his father. The Cunninghams, however, were sentenced to attend the state's industrial school, sort of a juvenile hall of the 1930s. The irony is that the state school gave the boys an excellent education and one of them even went on to college to become an engineer. Boo, who wasn't even one of the ringleaders of the teen crew, was denied access to everything and still rots in that sad, broken house.

5. Find a simile from this chapter and write down the sentence in which it appears. Yes, I want you to write down the full sentence.

"Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum."

6. Why does Jem not want Scout to acknowledge him at school? Is his behavior typical of an older brother?

Jem is older and doesn't want his baby sister tagging along with him at school, cramping his style. Yes, this is a very typical of older siblings and his comment here makes the reader feel the siblings' relationship is authentic.

7. Why does Walter Cunningham drench his lunch in molasses/syrup?

He's dirt poor and probably rarely, if ever, actually gets to eat any sweet syrup. He's so excited to be in a house that has syrup available that he covers all of his food with the treat.

8. Describe the way that Atticus treats Walter. What do you think of this?

Atticus talks to Walter like he's a young man, not a little kid. He directs the conversation toward things that Walter knows/cares about; this shows that Atticus is kind and thinks about the other person's perspective. Walter might feel ill at ease coming to have a free lunch with Jem and Scout, but Atticus makes sure that he feels comfortable at the Finch table. We, of course, like this about Atticus. He models proper behavior for Scout, who still needs to learn the right way to treat a guest – even if, of especially if, that person is from a different social class.

9. Atticus tells Scout that you never really understand a person "until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." What does this mean? Give an example from your world to illustrate this idea.
He means that we must look at a problem/issue from the other person's perspective to get a better idea of what's really happening and to find a solution. This ability to see something through the other person's eyes is a marker of maturity. Students' answers to the second question will vary, but they usually talk about resolving conflicts with siblings, parents, or teachers once they view the problem from the other person's perspective
10. Who are the Ewells? How are they the same as the Cunninghams? How are they different
The Ewells are a large, poor family and a disgrace to the town. One of the Ewell children, Burris, arrives for school covered in filth and hosting head lice. This family is broke and has no class; young Burris even calls the new teacher a slut before he storms out of the classroom. The Ewells are similar to the Cunninghams in that none of them has much money. The Ewells, however, are different than the Cunninghams because they don't have any pride, either. The Ewell mother is dead and the father is a drunk. The children attend school only on the first day of the school year to appease the court officials, but then they essentially drop out of school for the rest of the year. In Maycomb's social strata, the Ewells are far below the Cunninghams in terms of respectability
11. Who can people trust in Maycomb, Alabama? Identify your impressions of Dill, Calpurnia, Jem, the narrator, Atticus, the Radleys, Miss Stephanie Crawford, and Miss Caroline Fisher.
People really trust Atticus because he has strong family ties to the community and is an honest man. People also typically trust the people they see frequently.
Dill- nerdy, small, nosy
Calpurnia- strict, helpful, family cook
Jem- kind, looks after Scout, likes to play sports outside
Scout (the narrator)- sassy, independent, tomboy
Atticus- honest, trustworthy, friendly
the Radleys- mysterious, quiet, not friendly
Miss Stephanie Crawford- likes to gossip, friendly, main source of rumors about the Radleys
Miss Caroline Fisher- strict, not nice to Scout, doesn't know much about the community
12. What behaviors are acceptable in the Maycomb community? What behaviors are not acceptable in the community?
It is unacceptable to be of a different race and expect justice in the community. This is scene in the case of Tom Robinson, who is an innocent man convicted of a crime against a white woman. It is acceptable to let a white woman free from contempt of court because she is ignorant. It is unacceptable to be poor and rude. The poverty is held against the children in the story, as seen with Walter Cunningham. It is acceptable to harass and malign a young man who has been isolated for a long period of time. It is acceptable to be a racist with little empathy for those who are different as long as you are a church-going white person.
13. Describe Miss Caroline's interactions with Burris Ewell. What does this suggest about Miss Caroline? What does this suggest about the Ewells?
Miss Caroline sees a bug crawling in his hair. She does not know that he comes from a family that is often dirty and only attends school on the first day. She tells him to go home and bathe, but before he leaves, he yells cruel insults to her and makes her cry. This shows how truly filthy and awful the Ewell family is.
14. Does Scout learn anything from Walter's visit? What do you think this is?
Scout learns how to accept someone who is different and to not point out their difference just because it is unfamiliar.
15. Atticus says that you never really understand a person "until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." What does this mean? What does this lesson suggest about Atticus? Is it an easy thing for Scout to learn?
He means that you should never judge someone because you never know what they are going through in their personal life. This lesson suggests that Atticus is a very understanding person who thinks of others before himself. This may not be an easy lesson for Scout to learn because she is so young, but she is quite mature for her age and may understand this because Atticus is the one telling her this.

Chapter 4 Questions

1. How does Atticus react to the game the children have made of Boo's story? What does his reaction tell us about his character?
Atticus tells Jem and Scout to leave Boo Radley alone because he has a right to privacy. This reveals that Atticus is respectful even to people who may not seem to deserve respect.

2. Scout has two reasons for wanting to quit Jem and Dill's Radley game. What are they?
- 1. She knows that her father won't like them playing this game and they'll get in trouble.**
 - 2. She heard laughter coming from the house on the day that she accidentally rolled onto the Radley property when she was stuck inside the tire. She knows that the Radleys are aware of the children.**

Chapter 5 Questions

1. Describe the relationship between Dill and Scout. Include how he treats her and how she reacts to his treatment. How is this treatment typical and atypical (not typical) of this setting?
The relationship between Dill and Scout is Dill asked Scout to marry her early on in the summer and forgot about it. Scout reacts to this by beating Dill up. This is typical treatment of children, but not typical of this setting because Scout is a tomboy and is viewed as a boy by Dill.
2. What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about Boo? How does this compare with what Scout already believes?
She explains that Arthur (she uses his real name instead of "Boo") is alive and just prefers to stay inside. When Scout asks if Boo is crazy, Miss Maudie says that he might be and the craziness might've been caused by staying inside for so long. Remember, she loves being outside and this line makes me think of cabin fever/being stir crazy.
3. Paraphrase Atticus' speech about the Radleys' right to privacy. Do you agree with his point of view? Why or why not?
He says that a family has a right to keep to themselves and be left alone. He wants the children to stop their games with the Radleys and move on to something else. Students' answers will vary about agreement/disagreement. Some will say it's all just harmless childhood fun; others will say it's not appropriate to mock, even if it's unintentional, the trials that a family has endured.

Chapter 6 Questions

1. List the four reasons Jem and Dill give for deciding to peek into the Radley window on this particular night.
 - 1. They figure nobody will see them at night.**
 - 2. Atticus will be distracted with his evening reading and won't notice what they're doing.**
 - 3. If Boo kills them, they'll miss school instead of missing summer vacation.**
 - 4. It's easier to see into a dark house when it's dark outside than when it's light outside.**
2. Who is blamed for trespassing on the Radley Place? What does this blame reveal about the setting (time and place) of the novel?
A "negro" is blamed (they assume he escaped). This blame reveals that no matter who is the true culprit of a crime, the black people were blamed because of segregation and racism.

Chapter 7 Questions

1. According to Scout, what's the only good thing about second grade?
She gets to walk home with Jem every day.
2. What spooked Jem on the night of the Radley house incident? Who do you suppose did this?
When Jem went back to get his pants off the fence line, the rip in the fabric had been crudely sewn and the pants were left neatly folded for him at the fence. One of the Radleys, most likely Boo Radley himself, must have fixed the pants and left them for Jem.
3. After they find the soap dolls, what does Jem realize that Scout does not yet understand?
Jem knows that Boo Radley is watching them. He's also starting to realize that, perhaps, Boo isn't as harmful as they had feared.
4. At the end of the chapter, Jem quietly cries alone on the porch. Give two reasons to explain Jem's tears.
Nathan Radley, Boo's brother, has cemented over the knot hole in the tree, essentially cutting off the line of communication between Boo and Jem/Scout. Jem is crying because he's sad to be blocked from his blossoming relationship with Boo, but he's also crying for the way it must feel to be Boo, trapped in the house and alone in the world.
5. Can you find any evidence that Jem is more mature and wise (intelligence and awareness that comes with age/experience) than Scout? Provide at least one example that supports your answer.
Answers will vary. He doesn't want to stalk Boo anymore and he feels badly about what they did.

Chapter 8 Questions

1. Why is Jem's snowman creation so unacceptable to both Atticus and Miss Maudie?
The snowman was made to look just like Mr. Avery, which Miss Maudie and Atticus tell them is wrong, but they (Miss Maudie and Atticus) are secretly amused.
2. What does the fire at Miss Maudie's house reveal about the people living in Alabama in the 1930s?
The fire at Miss Maudie's house reveals that the people in Maycomb are very caring and helpful. The people have a very close community and always help each other out when someone in Maycomb is having a hard time.
3. Write down the line of text from this chapter that shows Jem believes that he and Scout are no better than anyone else in their town.
When Jem is talking to Miss Maudie, he notices that she's wrecked her hands trying to fix her yard. He says, "You've ruined 'em...Why don't you get a colored man?...Or Scout'n'me, we can help you." In this time of segregation, Jem shows that he's willing to do the same low, hard work that an African-American man might be hired to complete. There's a tone of equality in this line, as well as a gentlemanliness toward Miss Maudie.

Chapter 9 Questions

1. Why does Atticus feel he should defend Tom Robinson? Is it usual for (white) lawyers to do their best for black clients in Alabama during this time period?
He believes he should defend him because "it's the right thing to do" and wouldn't be able to live with himself if he didn't. It is unusual for a white lawyer to care so much about defending a black man.
2. Describe Aunt Alexandra and explain her negative feelings about Scout. How does Aunt Alexandra perpetuate (promote and continue) stereotypes?
Through Francis, we learn that Aunt Alexandra has been saying bad things about Atticus and she is extremely racist.
3. Explain at least two examples that reveal Atticus's parenting skills. Hint: What is Atticus trying to teach his children, Jem and Scout?
**Examples will vary.
Atticus is trying to teach his children to always stand up for what you believe in and to treat everyone with an equal amount of respect.**
4. According to Atticus, what is Maycomb's "usual disease?" Why is he worried that his children will catch it?
The disease is racism and he wants to raise his children to be open-minded and love every neighbor. By defending Tom Robinson, he's hoping to model for his children the way we should treat each other.

Chapter 10 Questions

1. Why isn't Atticus proud of his shooting ability?
He says that a God-given talent is nothing to brag about because he didn't have much of a part to play in being a good shot. Also, he views hunting as destructive, and he doesn't want to use his shooting ability until the situation arises where he needs to use a gun.
2. In this chapter Atticus tells his children that "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird" (p. 90). What reason does he give for saying this?
He says mockingbirds don't do anything but treat people to music. They don't hurt anybody, so they shouldn't be killed.
3. What does the shooting of Tim Johnson reveal about Heck Tate and Atticus? How does Atticus feel about how well he can shoot?
It reveals that they have been friends for a long time because Heck knew Atticus could shoot a gun yet Atticus said he hadn't shot a gun in 30 years. Atticus is very humble about his shooting ability.

Chapter 11 Questions

1. How does Atticus advise Jem to react to Mrs. Dubose's taunts?
Atticus tells Jem to be a gentleman and just ignore the taunts.
2. What request does Mrs. Dubose make of Jem? What does Mrs. Dubose gain from this "punishment" to Jem? What does Jem gain?
She wants him to read to her every day and fix her bushes. Answers will vary for the second part.

3. What does Atticus teach Jem and Scout about understanding antagonizing and belittling language and people like Mrs. Dubose?

Provide examples from the novel