

Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Sophomores

Required Text: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Directions: Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. You will need to purchase your own copy of the book. While you are reading, annotate your text. You can highlight, underline **and** write in the margins to record your thoughts and feelings about segments which you feel are important and add depth to the novel and help develop the theme. Just highlighting does not demonstrate higher thinking. When we return in September, we will have the whole class and small group discussions about the book, so be sure to make note of passages you find insightful. If you are not comfortable writing in the book, you can keep a journal or use sticky notes to catalogue important quotes and information to discuss in class.

You will also need to carefully provide complete, thorough and original answers for each of the questions that you will find on the next page. **It is an expectation that you will have high-quality answers, not short phrases or one-sentence answers.** Look up any terms or words you do not understand. Hand write each question on a clean sheet of paper. **You must bring your answers in on the first day of school.**

Read the book. Many students believe that watching a movie version of a book is the same as reading the book. That is not correct. The movie version of *To Kill a Mockingbird* differs in significant ways from the novel. All assignments for this novel are based on close readings from the book. **Upon returning to school in the fall, you will be expected to participate in class activities and will take a test on this novel.** Only reading Sparknotes or Cliffnotes will not adequately prepare you for the test, but can be an excellent resource once you are done with reading the book.

To Kill a Mockingbird

1) In **Chapter 1**, the narrator notes, "But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself." This alludes to another famous quote.

- A) Who in history said, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"?
- B) What was the situation in which it was said?
- C) Given what you have learned about this quotation, estimate the year it is in the novel.

2) In **Chapter 10**, Miss Maudie says, "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." This quotation (and several more like it) explains an important theme of this novel. (A theme is the writer's message about life.) Write this theme in your own words. Do not refer to mockingbirds because the statement above is just a metaphor for humans. What characters do you believe are used to emphasize this quotation in the novel?

3) In **Chapter 10**, after Atticus shoots a mad dog, Miss Maudie explains why Atticus shoots a mad dog, she explains why Atticus, the best shot in the county, had not shot a gun in many years: "I guess he decided he wouldn't shoot till he had to..." What does Miss Maudie's remark tell the reader about Atticus? (This is making an inference.)

4) In **Chapter 10**, after Atticus shoots the mad dog, Jem says, "Atticus is a gentleman, just like me." What does this quotation tell the reader about Jem's attitude toward his father?

5) In **Chapter 11**, Atticus gives his idea of courage: "It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do." Do you agree with this

definition of courage? How does Atticus exemplify this quote throughout the novel? Explain your answer.

6) Closely read **Chapter 15** and briefly summarize what happens.

7) Summarize Miss Gates' lecture on democracy in the classroom and compare that to her remark to Miss Crawford outside the courtroom (Chapter 26).

8) Carefully read **Chapter 30**. Briefly summarize the argument between Atticus and Sheriff Tate. This chapter is tricky and a little hard to understand; you will need to make inferences and know the characters well. You may need to read it more than once to understand it.

9) At one point in **Chapter 30**, Atticus "moved with the same slowness that night in front of the jail, when I thought it took him forever to fold his newspaper and toss it into his chair." Later in this same chapter, Atticus "got up and walked across the porch into the shadows" and "his youthful step had returned." Thoroughly explain this change in Atticus.

10) Carefully read **Chapter 31**. The narrator notes, "Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them." What event(s) on that page and on the previous one or two pages leads the narrator to that conclusion?

11) In **Chapter 31**, Scout lists the things Boo has given her and Jem. List those items and explain Scout's thoughts about Boo's gifts.

12) In **Chapter 31**, Scout says of a character in *The Gray Ghost*: "Atticus, he was real nice..." Atticus responds, "Most people are Scout, when you finally see them." To whom is Atticus referring? Explain your answer thoroughly.