

To Kill a Mockingbird – Sentence Summary Student Survival Guide

Chapter 1

The reader is introduced to the narrator, Scout, who describes her family's history and her town, Maycomb. She and her brother, Jem, are also introduced to Dill, and the children share stories and fantasies about the mystery man next door.

Chapter 2

The first day of school does not go well for Scout.

Chapter 3

Scout learns a lesson in manners when Walter Cunningham comes to lunch and a lesson in compromise from Atticus.

Chapter 4

Scout and Jem find some mysterious presents in the knothole of an old tree on the Radley place.

Chapter 5

The children's fascination with Boo Radley continues.

Chapter 6

Jem, Dill, and Scout venture out one night to try to see into Boo Radley's back window -- an adventure that leads to frightening results, especially for Jem.

Chapter 7

As the summer comes to a close, Scout and Jem find more presents in the Radley tree, but their bounty is suddenly cut off by Mr. Radley.

Chapter 8

Winter comes quickly, bringing a rare snowstorm to Maycomb. Miss Maudie's house is ruined in a fire, and Scout has a rare encounter with Bo Radley without even knowing it.

Chapter 9

Scout runs into trouble with both a classmate and a cousin when the two boys taunt her about her father, whom they call a "nigger lover." Atticus explains to Scout that he will be defending a black man named Tom Robinson.

Chapter 10

Scout discovers that her father, whom she previously thought too old to do anything, does possess some talents.

Chapter 11

Jem and Scout learn more about their neighbor Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose.

Chapter 12

With Atticus out of town, Calpurnia takes Jem and Scout to her church. They also learn more information about Tom Robinson.

Chapter 13

Aunt Alexandra comes to stay with Atticus and the children.

Chapter 14

After a tough evening fighting with both Aunt Alexandra and Jem, Scout is surprised to find the runaway Dill hiding under her bed.

Chapter 15

As Tom Robinson's trial approaches, Atticus worries about the safety of his client -- a fear which proves to be justified.

Chapter 16

Tom Robinson's trial begins.

Chapter 17

Heck Tate and Mr. Ewell take the stand in Tom Robinson's trial.

Chapter 18

Mayella Ewell takes the stand.

Chapter 19

Tom Robinson takes the stand.

Chapter 20

As they take a break from the trial, Scout and Dill get to know Dolphus Raymond better. Afterwards, they listen to Atticus's closing statements in the trial.

Chapter 21

The verdict is announced in Tom's case.

Chapter 22

The children, as well as other members of the community, discuss and react to the verdict in the Robinson case.

Chapter 23

Atticus and the children discuss the trial, Scout and Aunt Alexandra discuss Walter Cunningham, and Jem and Scout discuss class distinctions.

Chapter 24

As Scout suffers through one of her Aunt's missionary circle affairs, Atticus returns home with the news that Tom Robinson has been killed.

Chapter 25

The residents of Maycomb react to Tom's death.

Chapter 26

After a classroom discussion of Adolf Hitler and his treatment of the Jews, Scout is struck by the hypocrisy of many of Maycomb's residents.

Chapter 27

It would appear that Bob Ewell has not forgotten his grudge against some of Maycomb's citizens, including Judge Taylor and Helen Robinson. In the meantime, Scout prepares for a Halloween night presentation at her school.

Chapter 28

While returning home from the school pageant, Jem and Scout are attacked. Jem is hurt and carried home by a stranger. Afterwards, a search of the area turns up Bob Ewell's dead body.

Chapter 29

As Heck Tate and Atticus listen, Scout tells them what happened to her and Jem, ending by pointing to the man who had carried Jem home.

Chapter 30

Atticus is sure that it was Jem who stabbed Bob Ewell, but the sheriff tells Atticus that he intends to report that Ewell fell on his own knife. Atticus is sure that Tate is trying to protect Jem, until it finally dawns on him that it was really someone else who killed Ewell.

Chapter 31

Scout walks Boo Radley home, and then she reflects what it must be like to "stand in his shoes and walk around in them."