

Chapters Twenty and Twenty-One

Comprehension Check

Directions: To give you a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the novel, answer the following questions using complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to use your Note-Taking chart to keep important notes for each chapter and to help you answer the Comprehension Check questions.

Chapter 20

1. Who do Dill and Scout meet outside? What do they learn about him? Why does he go through such trouble to pretend?
2. What does Atticus do that horrifies Scout and Jem?
3. What do you think Atticus means by, "This case is as simple as black and white"? What is the more significant meaning behind his claim?
4. How does Atticus explain that the case is not about Tom, but actually about Mayella and society?
5. What is the "lie" Atticus talks about? What is the reality that he is hoping the jury will see?
6. How does Atticus claim that we are *not* all created equal?
7. Ideally, in what realm is every citizen of the United States truly equal? How is this the "great leveler"?

Chapter 21

1. Why does Calpurnia come to the courthouse?
2. Why do you think Atticus avoids answering Jem's question, "Do you think they'll acquit him that fast?"
3. Other than the fact that they didn't know where the children were, why do you think Calpurnia and Aunt Alexandra were so upset that the children were watching the trial?
4. About how long does it take for the jury to come up with their verdict?
5. How does Scout know the verdict before it is announced?