**Notebook Check : Plot Tracker Part II**

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| **Plot Line #1**  **The Mystery of Boo Radley** | **Plot Line #2**  **Jem Grows Up** | **Plot Line #3**  **The Trial** |
|  | Jem gets angry with Scout when she asks about Miss Gates and Hitler. | Bob Ewell spits on Atticus |
|  | Jem and Dill watch as Atticus tells Helen about Tom’s death. | Bob Ewell makes trouble for Judge Taylor and Helen. |
|  | *Jem does not want Scout to kill a bug* | *Tom Robinson is killed* |
|  | *Jem shows Scout his chest hairs* | *Atticus gives his summation* |
| *Scout walks Arthur home* | *Jem learns Atticus put a Cunningham on the jury* | *Scout and Dill talk to Mr. Raymond* |
|  | *Atticus and Jem discuss justice and the jury system* | *Dill cries in the courtroom* |
| *Atticus and Mr. Tate argue over who killed Bob Ewell* | *Jem is disappointed in the people of Maycomb after the trial* | *Tom takes the stand* |
| *Scout sees Boo Radley for the first time* | *Jem cries as he leaves the courtroom* | *Atticus questions Mayella* |
| *Mr Tate finds Bob Ewell dead* | *Jem flinches each time a jury member says Tom is guilty* | *Atticus humiliates Bob Ewell* |
| *Jem and Scout are attached* | *Jem is happy that the jury is out for a long time* | *The children watch the trial* |
| *Cecil Jacobs scares Jem and Scout* | *Atticus lets the children return to the trial to hear the verdict* | *Scout stops the lynch mob* |
| *Jem realizes that Boo stays in the house because he wants to* | *Jem and the children follow Atticus to the jail* | *Aunt Alexandra comes to stay* |
|  | *Jem tells Atticus that Dill is hiding in the house* | *Scout and Jem attend Calpurnia’s church* |

To Kill a Mockingbird Reading Guide Part 2

**Chapter 27**

1. Why do Atticus and Aunt Alexandra not intend to go to the Halloween pageant?

**Both of them are too exhausted by the end of the day (Atticus was in Montgomery and Alexandra was setting up for the school’s Halloween party) to go to the school’s gym and watch Scout stand on stage in a ham costume.**

1. Why do you believe the author, Harper Lee, included the Halloween story in her novel? Describe any significance you believe it has.

**Most importantly, the Halloween adventures that take place in Chapter 28 serve as the climax to the novel. I'm sure Harper Lee must have considered Halloween an appropriate night for the evil act perpetrated by Bob Ewell, and the holiday is perfect for the actions performed by the ghoul-turned-hero--the "malevolent phantom," "Boo" Radley. Lee deliberately creates a "scary" setting for Jem and Scout, who must walk to and from the school pageant by themselves on a moonless night, and the addition of it being Halloween--an evening universally known for its evil connotations--is the perfect complement for the events that follow the children's return home. As for Lee's decision for Bob to seek revenge upon Atticus by harming his children, it is an event foreshadowed much earlier when Atticus wonders aloud**

**"What on earth could Ewell do to me, sister?"  (Chapter 23)**

**and Aunt Alexandra answers "Something furtive." Lee creates a surprise ending by employing Boo as the hero, and it helps to tie together the two main plots of the story (the children's fascination about Boo, and the trial of Tom Robinson) when Boo and Tom's accuser meet on the dark trail from the school. Good finally triumphs over evil: Bob gets his just dessert, and Scout's fantasy comes true when she finally gets to meet Boo, who is transformed from the scary, unseen neighbor into the saviour of the children.**

**Chapter 28**   
1. Identify at least two signs that foreshadow trouble ahead.   
 **One sign that foreshadows trouble ahead is that Jem and Scout go, alone, to the pageant. They also do not have a flashlight when it becomes dark. Another sign is when Jem and Scout hear footsteps behind them when they are walking home.**

1. Describe the significant event in this chapter that forever changes Jem and Scout.

**The significant event in this story happens the night of Scout's pageant at her school. Atticus and Aunt Alexandra are too tired to take Scout so Jem goes with her. After the pageant, they begin walking home. They start hearing footsteps behind them, brushing it off as if it is Cecil, who had scared them earlier. They soon realize that it isn't him. Scout is having trouble walking in her ham costume. The person following them catches up to them. He tries to attack both of the kids and Scout isn't quite sure what is happening. It is Bob Ewell. She hears Jem struggling, them a snap and his scream. The next thing she knows is that she is being brought back to her house and Jem is being carried, limp. Scout believes that it was Jem who killed Bob Ewell, but it looks as if he had fallen on his own knife.**

3. We don’t know yet who the stranger is that carried Jem home, but you might have a good idea. Take a guess.

**Yes, of course, it’s Arthur “Boo” Radley who came to the rescue.**

**Chapter 29**

1. Who is the perpetrator (the person responsible for the crime)? How do you know who he is?

**Bob Ewell was responsible for the attempted murder and assault of Jem and Scout. You know that it was most likely him because he stated that he wanted to get revenge on Atticus by any means necessary, even if that meant putting the lives of Atticus' children in danger. You also know that it was Bob because Heck Tate found him dead with a knife wound near where Jem and Scout were attacked, which implies that he was around and armed with a knife, and a knife made the marks on Scout's ham costume.**

1. What does Atticus think was wrong with Mr. Ewell? What does Heck Tate think was wrong with Mr. Ewell? With whom do you agree and why?

**Atticus thinks Mr. Ewell must have been insane to want to attack children. Heck disagrees and thinks Mr. Ewell was just a low-down, trashy soul, not “worth the bullet it takes to shoot ‘em.” Students’ answers will vary on the last question.**

**Chapter 30**   
1. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell's death was self-inflicted? In what way is this partly true?

**Following the incident, Heck Tate welcomed Atticus to the hypothesis that Bob Ewell's death had been self-inflicted. Heck demonstrated how Bob Ewell had allegedly fallen on the kitchen knife in his left hand. His theory is partially true, backed up by the one fact that Jem hadn't killed Bob. However, Boo Radley had stepped in to assist the kids.**

1. When Atticus first thinks that Jem was the one who killed Bob Ewell, what is Atticus ready to do? What does this show the reader about Atticus?

**He’s mentally figuring everything that will need to be done for Jem to turn himself in and be defended in court. This shows that Atticus respects the law above all else and wouldn’t allow Jem to be treated differently than any other man.**

3. Did Heck Tate do the right thing? Explain your answer.

**Students’ answers will vary, and this question often leads to compelling class discussions**

**Chapter 31**   
1. After she takes Boo home, Scout understands many new things because she is able to see the street from his point of view. Explain some of the things she now understands about Boo’s perspective.

**She realizes that he has been a part of her childhood, watching the important events of the last few years unfold. He has a vantage point to view each and every drama in the neighborhood and to feel a kinship with his neighbors, even if he isn’t personally involved with them. He’s part of this community, too.**

2. Reread the first line from chapter 1. How do the events in the final chapters connect to this line? Do you find this storytelling technique effective? Why or why not?

**We now understand the story behind Jem’s broken arm. Lee has brought the story full circle, answering all of the questions that may have lingered in our minds from the launch of the story. Students generally like this technique and find it effective, as it lends an air of mystery as the story unfolds.**

3. At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout as she drifts off to sleep. How does the topic of the story connect to one of this novel’s major themes?

**In the story, a boy is misjudged; he’s suspected of vandalism, yet he’s an innocent, good soul. Of course, this idea is echoed through so many characters and incidents in the novel. I like to have students brainstorm a list of characters who are different at their core than they first appear to Scout. Certainly, the list will include Boo, Tom, Mrs. Dubose, Miss Maudie, Mr. Avery, the Judge, and Atticus himself.**

Literary Elements in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Directions**: For each literary element, write the element’s definition and find the examples from the text.

**Simile: a comparison of two or more things using like or as**

**Metaphor: a comparison of two of more things without using like or as**

1. Find a simile on p. 53 that describes the shadow Scout sees as it moves across the porch.

**“Crisp as toast”**

1. On p. 142, find a **simile** that refers to how nervous Dill was when his Aunt Rachel showed up and heard about how he had run away from home.

**“he shivered like a rabbit”**

1. Find the metaphor on p. 5 about men’s collars. What are they compared to?

**Collars wilted—like flowers or plants in the heat**

1. What metaphor refers to Arthur (Boo) Radley on page 11?

**Boo as a ghost**

1. On p. 137, find a **metaphor** that describes Scout’s angry reaction when Jem tells her not to antagonize her aunt.

**Scout: “My feathers rose again” comparing her actions to an angry bird’s defensive maneuver**

**Hyperbole:** **extreme exaggeration**

1. On p. 72, find an example of hyperbole that refers to Scout’s stomach after she learns that Boo Radley had put a wool blanket around her shoulders during Miss Maudie’s house fire.

**Her stomach turned to water**

1. On p. 103, find an example of **hyperbole** that describes how long it took for Atticus to get home. **“Two geological ages later”**
2. On page 162 find an example of **hyperbole** that refers to how ridiculous the people of Maycomb were when it came to race. **One drop of negro blood makes you all black**
3. Write two other examples of hyperbole below: **answers will vary**

**Irony: the difference between appearance and reality**

**What are three types of irony and their brief definition**?

1. **Verbal irony: when someone says something but means something else.**
2. **Situational irony: when something happens that wasn’t expected to happen**
3. **Dramatic irony: when readers/audience knows more than the characters know**
4. Find an example of irony on p. 17 in reference to the children’s understanding of the alphabet.

**Everybody knew the alphabet was because most of them had failed it the year before.**

1. On p. 41 find an example of irony in what Jem tells Scout about her behavior because she doesn’t want to play “Boo Radley” anymore. **He told her she was behaving like a girl—she is a girl**
2. What is the **irony of situation** in the scene on p. 83? [Francis is telling scout all  the things that are wrong with Atticus—even calling him a n\*\*\*\*-lover who raises his children with no manners.]

**Francis tells Scout that Atticus is ruining the family when it’s actually he and Aunt Alexandra who are behaving poorly. Atticus is acting with kindness.**

**Allusion:** **reference to any historical, literary, religious event within another work of literature or speech**

1. Find an **allusion** to a famous person on page 156. Why would Mr. Underwood want to “live down” his name? **He was named after a confederate General BRAxton Bragg— a slow steady drinker**
2. On page 160, find an **allusion** to a famous person in history.

**William Jennings Bryan**

**Euphemism:** **a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt**

1. Scout says, “What in the **sam holy hill** did you wait till tonight? (p.51) “Sam holy hill” is a euphemism for something. Can you guess what it is?

**“Holy hell”**

1. Find a **euphemism** for getting a spanking on p. 74.

**Atticus had promised he’d wear Scout out**

1. Find a **euphemism** on page 146 that is a polite way of saying Tom Robinson could be put to death.

**“the boy might go to the chair”**

**Colloquialism: a word or phrase that is not formal or literary, typically one used in ordinary or familiar conversation.**

1. Find a colloquialism on p. 21.   “What does it mean?

**“Starting off on the wrong foot” – it means not beginning in a good/expected way**

1. Find the colloquialism on p. 44.  It refers to why Jack Finch would yell a marriage proposal across the street at Miss Maudie.

**…get Miss Maudie’s goat**

1. On page 65, what do you think this colloquialism stands for?  “Yessum,” called Jem.  It’s beautiful, ain’t it, Miss Maudie?

**“Yes, Ma’am”**

1. Find a colloquialism on p. 73 that refers to Mr. Avery.

“**right stove up” –injured in bed for a week**

1. On p. 102, find a **colloquialism** that means it takes Jem a long time to lose his temper.

**A slow fuse**

1. On. Page 151, when the mob challenged him, Atticus said Heck Tate, the sheriff, was nearby.  Atticus was then told, *“…Heck’s bunch is so deep in the woods they won’t get out till morning.  Called ‘em off on a snipe hunt…”* What does this **colloquialism** mean?

**A wild goose chase in the wilderness—searching for nothing and failing**

**Pun: a play on words**

1. Find a **pun** on p. 109.  It is also **a literary allusion** to a famous writer, Sir Walter Scott.

**Sir Walter Scout—play on Scout’s name referring to Sir Walter Scott**

1. Write three other examples of a pun: **Answers will vary**

**Foreshadowing: a hint or clue to future events in the story**

1. On p. 76, find an example of **foreshadowing.** It refers to the future outcome of the trial.

**“ Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win.”**

**Personification: giving human qualities to something inanimate**

1. Find an example of personification on page 5. **Maycomb is a tired old town**
2. Find an example of personification that refers to the Radley house on p. 12. **“the house died”**
3. Find personification on p. 45 that refers to the Radley house. **“Sad house”**
4. On p. 154, find an example of **personification** that refers to a car starting. **Engine coughed**

**Onomatopoeia: a word whose sound imitates or suggests its meaning.**

1. On p. 137, find an example of **onomatopoeia** that refers to Aunt Alexandra’s knitting needles.

**Punk, punk, punk**

1. Write four other examples of onomatopoeia: **answers will vary**