**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

Conventional

Courageous

Energetic

Honest

Insensitive

Methodical

Confident

Coarse

Cautious

Difficult

Practical

Reliable

Resourceful

Intelligent

Sensitive

Diligent

Conscientious

Tender

Callous

wise

Compassionate

Understanding

Thoughtful

Simple

Imaginative

Persistent

Stubborn

Reasonable

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

Conventional

Courageous

Energetic

Honest

Insensitive

Methodical

Confident

Coarse

Cautious

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

Difficult

Practical

Reliable

Resourceful

Intelligent

Sensitive

Diligent

Conscientious

Tender

Callous

wise

Compassionate

Understanding

Thoughtful

Simple

Imaginative

Persistent

Stubborn

Reasonable

Impudent

**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**

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

*To Kill a Mockingbird* Reading Guide

**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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

1. 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.**

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

**Provide examples from the novel**