

To Kill a Mockingbird

Socratic Seminar Questions

As you read chapters 7-9, answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper (typed or handwritten).

Keep in mind: Socratic Seminars are not debates; they are forums for discussion. This is a chance for you to delve more deeply into the issues and thoughts that you encounter while reading. The idea is to build upon each other's thoughts and comments in order to gain a greater individual understanding of, not only the text, but also the themes and ideas within the work.

When writing down your responses to the questions, they MUST be formatted in this way:

Question #1:

Response: blah, blah, blahdy blah blah

Textual Evidence: Page 38 "Blah blah blahdy blah blah."

Overarching Questions:

1. What **theme** do you see occurring the most so far in the novel? (You must identify one FULL theme and analyze its development thus far in the novel: topic + message/lesson taught/learned about the topic= full theme)
 - a. Why is this theme so prominent?
 - b. How has it developed so far in the novel? (Has it helped the characters learn something? Explain. Has it pushed the plot of the novel forward? Explain.)
 - c. How does this theme help connect everything going on in the novel? Explain.
2. What questions or concerns do you have about the novel so far? Write down at least **two questions** you have about **anything** you've read thus far in the novel. (So... anything from the beginning of the book until now).
**There is no need to try and answer these yet. Seek and write the answers out during the seminar.*

Chapter 7 Question:

3. List all the items Jem and Scout found in the tree. What could these items symbolize for them? What happens to the tree hole and why?

Chapter 8 Question:

4. When Miss Maudie's house catches fire, what happens to Scout as she watches? What does this reveal about all the characters involved? (Scout, Jem, Atticus, Boo).

Chapter 9 Question:

5. There is a word in this chapter that has been/is used to speak disrespectfully and negatively towards African Americans.
- a. Why would Harper Lee include this word in her novel?
 - b. What does the inclusion of this word do to the story?
 - c. How does it aid in our understanding of Scout as a character? (cite two examples of this from chapter 9)

Article Questions: (connect to TKAM)

6. Under what circumstances (if any) should a book be removed from a school? A library?
7. Does a member of the public have a right to decide whether others should be allowed access to a book? If so, under what circumstances would he or she have the right to decide?
8. How does the historical context of a book affect the public's reaction to it? Would a book considered objectionable in the 1960's or another decade be viewed more favorably today?