

Connection Questions - *TKAM* Chapters 5-7

Chapter 5 Questions:

1. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says that Jem “gets more like Jack Finch every day”? What details in the story she tells about her relationship with Jack help explain why Maudie thinks that Jem and Jack are similar?
2. What does Maudie’s comparison between Jem and Jack reveal to us about what Jem might really be thinking about Boo and the items left in the tree?
3. What is the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law? How does Maudie and Scout’s discussion about different kinds of Baptists explore that difference? How does the conflict between Jem * We have chosen to include this word in order to honestly communicate the harshness of the bigoted language. and Atticus over playing the Boo Radley game explore that difference? Who in this chapter follows the letter of the law? Who follows the spirit of the law? What is the difference? What are the consequences of each approach for the characters in this chapter?
4. Why does Jem declare at the end of the chapter, “I thought I wanted to be a lawyer but I ain’t so sure now”?

Chapter 6 Questions:

1. Why is it so important to Jem to risk his safety to retrieve his pants from the Radleys’ fence in the middle of the night?
2. Scout states in this chapter, “It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company.” What prompts her to draw this conclusion? What does she mean? As you continue to read the novel, look for evidence that Scout and Jem are growing apart.

Chapter 7 Questions:

1. Why is Jem moody at the beginning of Chapter 7?
2. Is Scout able to understand by “climbing into Jem’s skin”? What does the rest of the chapter reveal about the source of Jem’s moodiness?
3. Jem tells Scout that when he retrieved his pants from the Radleys’, “they were folded across the fence like they were expectin’ me.” Of what type of figurative language is this an example? How does this language contribute to the sense of mystery around the Radley house? Does Jem know how his pants ended up that way?
4. What evidence does Chapter 7 provide to help the reader understand how Scout and Jem were “parting company”? What was Jem beginning to understand (about Boo Radley) that Scout could not yet see? Why does Jem keep his feelings secret from Atticus and Scout?
5. How do Jem’s responses to the objects left in the tree change in this chapter? What does this suggest about how he feels about the items and the person leaving them?
6. Why does Jem cry at the end of Chapter 7? What does Jem understand about Boo and Mr. Radley that he did not understand before? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.