

**Big Ideas from *To Kill a Mockingbird*:** Check out and explain some of the major themes from the end of Part 1 of the novel.

1. Miss Maudie reiterates and explains Atticus' idea on mockingbirds and says:

Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

What makes mockingbirds different from other birds?  
 \* Most birds damage property and are a nuisance. All they do is sing...

What does this quote reveal about Atticus' true character?  
 \* He is nice, peaceful → He's thoughtful.  
 you don't kill for no reason.

Do you think the community would agree? - Explain/  
 \* Most people wouldn't give that much thought to this. → A bird is a target...

2. A) Briefly describe the Tim Johnson incident

Tim is a loose, rabid dog that is raging through the street. Atticus shoots the dog...

- B) After the shooting, Ms. Maudie says: "People in their right minds never take pride in their talents." A) What does she mean? B) How does this relate to Atticus?

A) It's important to accept your talents, but bragging is not good. "One-shot fitch"  
 B) Scout is surprised. Her dad is an expert

3. How could Tim Johnson represent the community?

The rabid dog is similar to the racist community - out of control... rifleman.

4. Check out the quote on the top of page 102 from Mrs. Dubose. A) Why is this comment the most shocking that the kids have heard yet? B) What sort of a reaction does this cause in Jem?

"Your father's no better than the n's and trash that he works for."

It's shocking because an elderly woman is saying this to kids.

B) Jem destroys her garden w/ Scout's baton...

5. Read the last paragraph on 104. A) What is Atticus' view on the Robinson case? B) Is he right? - Explain.

Atticus is sure that Tom R. doesn't have a chance. He calls it a case of "conscience". He has to help Tom to be a good person.

6. Toward the bottom of p. 108, Scout asks Atticus what a "n... lover is."

A) What does this tell us about Scout and the community's state of mind? B) Summarize her father's response.

A) Any interaction with a black person can ruin your reputation. Having a black person work for you is o.k. People use the word w/o knowing what it means.

7. Read the last paragraph on p. 112. A) Write a quote from Atticus on Mrs. Dubose. B) Is he correct? - Explain.

B) Stop using the word. I am a "n..." lover. I love everybody...

**Summary:** How are the kid's opinions on Atticus changing? What sort of a man do you think he is?