Chapter One Questions

Directions: On your own sheet of lined paper, answer the following questions.

1) Our narrator is Scout, a girl who will grow from age 6 to almost 9 during the story. What do you suppose we, as the readers, should be aware of as we listen to Scout tell her story? Is a child a reliable or unreliable narrator? Defend your answer.

2) Dill impresses Jem because he’s seen a scary movie and delights in retelling the tale to Jem and Scout. Name the movie.

3) According to Calpurnia, who was “the meanest man ever God blew breath into”?

4) We know that the setting of this story will be Maycomb, Alabama, a sleepy Southern town that’s a little rough around the edges. What is the time period of this story? Give evidence to support your conclusion about the time period of this novel.

5) Who are the Radleys? Describe their house and yard.

6) What did Boo Radley use to stab his father?

7) Who were the Cunningham boys and what happened to them? What’s the irony here?

8) According to Jem, how do you get a turtle to come out of its shell? In what way might this idea be an apt parallel to get people to do what they don’t want to do? Give a real-world example to support your answer.

9) Jem and Scout call their father by his first name, Atticus, instead of calling him “Dad” or “Daddy.” What does this tell you about their relationship?

10) Find a simile from this chapter and write down the sentence in which it appears. Yes, I want you to write down the full sentence.
Chapter Two Questions

Directions: On your own sheet of lined paper, answer the following questions.

1) Why does Jem not want Scout to acknowledge him at school? Is his behavior typical of an older brother?
2) Who is Miss Caroline?
3) On rainy days, Calpurnia needs to keep Scout occupied, so she has her sit at the kitchen table and do what?
4) How much money does Miss Caroline, the teacher, offer to loan Walter Cunningham so he can buy lunch?
5) When Mr. Cunningham needed Atticus’ legal advice, he couldn’t pay the bill with money. Instead, he brought a variety of things to the Finch home over the next year. Name two of the items that Mr. Cunningham delivered to the Finch home.
6) Why does Scout’s ability to read and write annoy her teacher, Miss Caroline?
7) Atticus says that country people, like the Cunninghams, were hit the hardest by “the crash.” To what is he referring? Why would country people be the ones to suffer the most?
8) Why are professional people also suffering?
9) An entailment is an unusual legality that prohibits a piece of land from being sold. It was designed to protect a family’s interest in a piece of land because it could only be passed down to a member of the same family, never sold for profit. Jem describes an entailment as “a condition of having your tail in a crack,” and Atticus later says that Jem’s description is surprisingly accurate. How is this an apt description for the Cunningham family?
10) What do you think of Miss Caroline Fisher as a teacher?
Chapter Three Questions

Directions: On your own sheet of lined paper, answer the following questions.

1) What do Atticus and young Walter Cunningham talk about during lunch?
2) Describe the way that Atticus treats Walter. What do you think of this?
3) Why does Walter Cunningham drench his lunch in molasses/syrup?
4) When Scout criticizes Walter Cunningham’s eating habits, Calpurnia scolds Scout, smacks her on the bottoms as she sends the girl out of the room, and then lectures her on proper manners, saying, “Yo’ folks might be better’n the Cunninghams but it don’t count for nothin’ the way you’re disgracin’ ‘em.” What does Calpurnia mean here? Is she right?
5) In the tiff between Scout and Calpurnia, Atticus takes Calpurnia’s side. What does this show us?
6) After lunch, Miss Caroline screams in fright, but it isn’t’ a mouse that made her so upset. What is it?
7) How many day(s) does Burris Ewell attend school?
8) Why do Maycomb officials bend the rules for the Ewells? Is this the right thing to do?
9) Atticus tells Scout that you never really understand a person “until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” What does this mean? Give an example from your world to illustrate this idea.
10) Who are the Ewells? How are they the same as the Cunninghams? How are they different?
Chapter Four Questions

Directions: On your own sheet of lined paper, answer the following questions.

1) What did Scout and find tucked in the tree the first time?
2) What is a "hot steam"?
3) Describe the children’s game that involves the tire.
4) Why do Jem, Dill, and Scout need scissors for their game?
5) What does Scout think of her school’s new style of education?
6) What does this failing show us about adults?
7) What’s the second thing she finds? How many of each item was there?
8) What is the significance of this?
9) Who, do you suppose, put the items in the tree hole?
10) Scout has two reasons for wanting to quit Jem and Dill’s Radley game. What are they?
Chapter Five Questions

Directions: On your own lined sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1) Who asks Scout to marry him?
2) What does Jem use to place a note on the windowsill at the Radley's?
3) According to Miss Maudie, how is a foot-washing Baptist different than a regular kind of Baptist?
4) During the note-delivering caper, what item is Dill holding?
5) At the end of the chapter, what future career do we discover Jem had been considering?
6) Describe Miss Maudie Atkinson. How typical is she of Maycomb’s women? What do the children think of her?
7) Miss Maudie says, “…sometimes the Bible in the hands of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of—oh, of your father.” Explain what she means.
8) What does Miss Maudie tell Scout about Boo? How does this compare with what Scout already believes?
9) Scout says that “Dill Harris could tell the biggest” lies she ever heard. Why might Dill have told such lies?
10) Paraphrase Atticus’ speech about the Radley’s right to privacy. Do you agree with his point of view? Why or why not?
Chapter Six Questions

Directions: On your own lined sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1. What do Jem, Scout, and Dill witness Mr. Avery doing once that he never does again so long as they were watching?

2. How do Jem and Dill manipulate Scout into trying to peek in Boo Radley’s window? Why motivates her to go?

3. List the four reasons Jem and Dill give for deciding to peek into the Radley window on this particular night.

4. How do Jem, Dill, and Scout make a squeaky gate hinge open quietly?

5. What does Jem lose in the escape from the Radley’s?

6. What lie does Dill tell the adults to explain the missing item?

7. Nathan Radley says he fired his shotgun because a colored person or a dog was in his vegetables. Do you think Nathan Radley really thinks that there was a dog or colored person in his yard? Why or why not?

8. How many times has Atticus whipped Jem?

9. Find and write down the line from early in the chapter that foreshadows the trouble Jem will have when he tried to flee the Radley’s backyard.

10. Jem wants to return to the Radley yard and fetch his pants so he can stay out of trouble with Atticus. Scout wants Jem to leave the pants where they are and face the consequences with Atticus. With which child do you agree? Why?
Chapter Seven Questions

Directions: On your own lined sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1. What does Mr. Radley do to the knothole in the tree?
2. Among the different items that Jem and Scout find in the trees knot hole is a medal. This medal was once a prize for winning what?
3. Which character is unable to chew gum?
4. What reason does Mr. Nathan Radley, Boo’s brother, give to explain why he took that course of action to the knothole in the tree?
5. According to Scout, what’s the only good thing about second grade?
6. What spooked Jem on the night of the Radley house incident?
7. Who do you suppose did this?
8. After they find the soap dolls, what does Jem realize that Scout does not yet understand?
9. Look closely at this line: “Jem stared at me so long I asked what was the matter, but got ‘Nothing, Scout’ for an answer.” What does the elimination of the quotation punctuation do for this passage?
10. At the end of the chapter, Jem quietly cries alone on the porch. Give two reasons to explain Jem’s tears.