

## Chapters 20, 21, and 22 Summaries

### Chapter 20

- Mr. Raymond offers Dill his paper bag. Scout thinks it's whisky, but nah, says Dill, it's just Coca-Cola. This is Mr. Raymond's secret: he just pretends to drink all the time because it gives other people an excuse for his bad behavior. He's telling them his secret because they're kids and they know better than their elders—Dill's crying shows that the world hasn't gotten hold of him and made him blind to its meanness.
- Atticus sees it, too. He's an unusual case. All you have to do is look back inside the courthouse to see how unusual. They head back to the balcony, to find Atticus already halfway through his closing remarks. Atticus, after asking permission from the judge, takes off his coat, unbuttons his vest and collar, and loosens his tie—shocking his children, who have never, ever before seen him so undressed outside of his bedroom. Atticus's tone sheds a few layers, too, becoming conversational rather than businesslike.
- Basically, he points out that there's no evidence and that the prosecution is banking on the stereotype that all African-Americans are immoral liars who rape white women whenever they get the chance. He tells the jury that they're smart enough to see that for the lie it is, and to know that African-Americans are no worse than any other race. At this point Scout notices another first: Atticus is sweating.
- Atticus continues to the jury: he cites Thomas Jefferson's famous line that all men are created equal, and says that this doesn't mean that everyone is just as talented as everyone else, but that everyone is equal under the law. He ends his speech with a plea to the jury: "In the name of God, do your duty". Atticus turns to go back to his seat, softly saying something else that Scout doesn't hear; she asks Jem, and he says that Atticus said "In the name of God, believe him".
- After this, they see that Calpurnia is making a beeline up the center aisle of the courtroom towards Atticus. UH OH!

What had Atticus told the children that they were absolutely not allowed to do on the day of the trial? \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter 21

- The judge allows Cal to hand Atticus a note from Aunt Alexandra, which says that the kids are missing. Uh, they're in the balcony and have been there all afternoon. Atticus sends the kids home with Calpurnia, but after some strategic whining he agrees that they can come back once they've had their dinner.
- Aunt Alexandra is ready to faint from horror when she hears where they've been, but they head back anyway.
- Scout and Jem are surprised to find that hardly anyone has left—usually everyone heads out once the jury leaves to deliberate. Jem says that they had to have won the case, but the Reverend says that he's never seen a jury support an African-American man over a white one. The court audience waits patiently. For over three hours. Without a single piece of technology in sight. (If you're wondering how people killed time before smartphones, they apparently slept a lot. JK) Scout dozes off, and when she wakes up she's thinking about the morning when Atticus shot the mad dog. Finally, it's time for the (unanimous) verdict: guilty.

- Atticus whispers something to Tom Robinson, packs up his papers, and leaves. As he walks down the aisle alone, the African-Americans in the balcony silently stand up.

Why is everyone in the African-American balcony standing up for Atticus as he passes?

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## Chapter 22

- Jem is weeping tears of injustice. At home, Alexandra softens up enough to tell Atticus she's sorry he lost the case—but she still doesn't think he should have let the kids listen in. Atticus says that they have to deal with the fallout from it anyway, and that racism is just as much a Maycomb standby as missionary teas are. (Missionary teas were basically just charity events; people in a church would get together to discuss and hear about the church's missionary activities abroad—obviously the goal was to raise money to support the mission. Atticus is saying that these events happen all the time in Maycomb, just like racism. THINK METAPHOR AND SIMILES!! He is comparing the two things.)
- In the morning, he tells his family that it's not over yet—there's still the appeal process. Breakfast is a lavish affair, as it seems every African-American in the county has sent the Finches a gift of food. The kids head out to see Miss Stephanie Crawford giving a blow-by-blow account of the trial to Miss Maudie Atkinson and Mr. Avery. Miss Maudie keeps Miss Stephanie from asking rude questions and offers the kids some cake. There are two little cakes and one big one, and Scout thinks that Miss Maudie has uncharacteristically forgotten Dill, but then finds out the big cake is for Jem.
- Despite the big cake, Jem is still pretty bummed out. He always thought that Maycomb folks were good people, but it doesn't seem like that to him anymore, since no one stepped up to support Tom Robinson. Actually, Miss Maudie says, some did. Judge Taylor usually appoints an inexperienced local lawyer as public defender, but made an exception in Tom Robinson's case to appoint Atticus instead. And even though Atticus didn't win, he made the jury think about their decision for a long time. That's a step in the right direction.
- They leave Miss Maudie's house, and Dill says that he's going to be a clown when he grows up, because the only possible response to humanity is to laugh at it. Jem says that Dill's got it wrong: clowns get laughed at by everyone else. Nope, Dill says. He'll be a new sort of clown, one who looks at the audience and laughs at them.
- Miss Rachel and Aunt Alexandra tell the kids to get off the street, there's trouble coming, and Miss Stephanie butts in to tell them why: that morning Mr. Ewell spit in Atticus's face and told him that he had it out for him.

Even though the Ewell's won the case, Bob still wants to punish/hurt Atticus. Why?

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