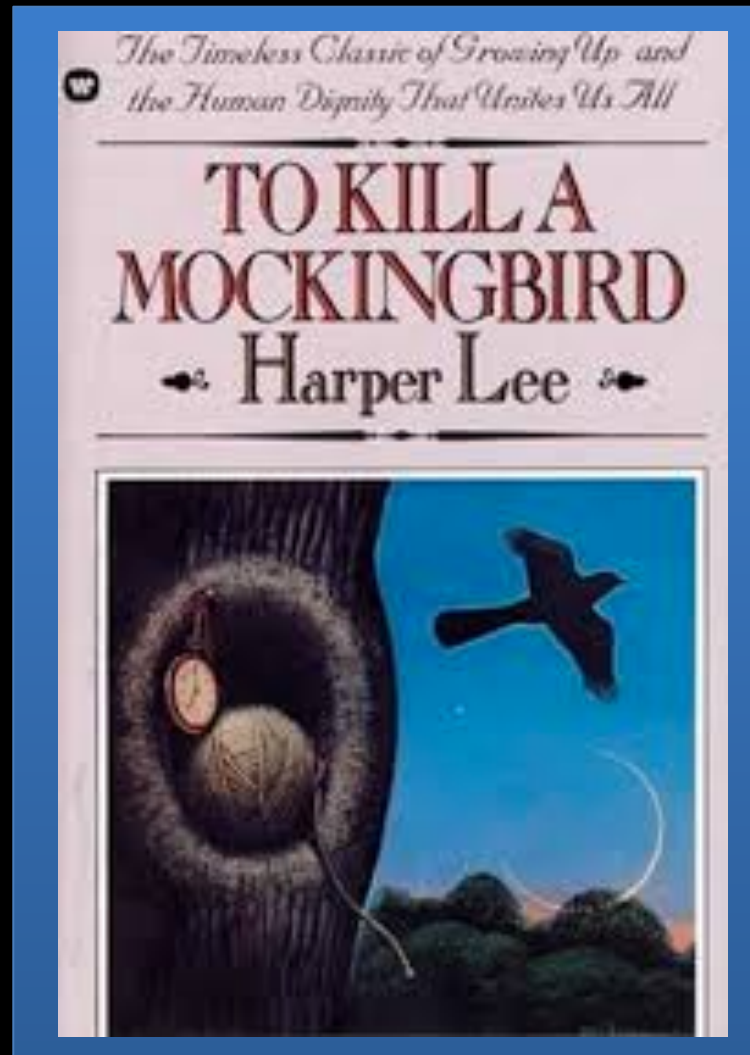


To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapters 10 - 12



Chapter 10

Atticus was almost 50, and Scout and Jem thought that was very old. Jem complained that Atticus never did anything like play touch football with him, or at least go hunting or fishing.

Atticus wouldn't teach the kids to use their air guns, so Uncle Jack did. Atticus didn't want them to shoot birds. He told them that if they did, not to shoot a mockingbird because it was a sin. Miss Maudie explained to Scout that it was a sin to kill a mockingbird because all they did was make music for people to enjoy.

One day Scout and Jem saw a dog that had Rabies. Atticus and the sheriff, Mr. Tate, came quick. Mr. Tate told Atticus to shoot the dog to put it out of its misery. Atticus didn't want to. He had not shot a gun in 30 years. But he used Mr. Tate's gun and shot the dog. He killed it in one shot. Miss Maudie said people used to call Atticus "one-shot" because he could shoot so well when he was young.

Scout told Jem they would have something to brag about the next day in school. But Jem told her to keep quiet about it. Jem realized that his father was a gentleman and that gentlemen never bragged about their talents.

Chapter 11

On Jem's 12th birthday, he wanted to use his birthday money to buy a toy train and a baton for Scout. When they walked past Mrs. Dubose's house, Mrs. Dubose yelled at the children that their father was a "nigger-lover." Jem got mad, and on the way back home, he used Scout's new baton to destroy all Mrs. Dubose's flowers. Jem's punishment was to read to Mrs. Dubose every day for a month.

Scout went with Jem to read. Every day, an alarm would go off, and Mrs. Dubose's helper would come in to give her medicine and tell the kids to go home. The alarm went off later and later each day.

One night after Jem was finished with his punishment, Atticus came home and told them that Mrs. Dubose died. He explained that Mrs. Dubose had been in pain, and because of it, had become addicted to morphine. But Mrs. Dubose had wanted to stop being addicted. So she used Jem's reading to keep her distracted from the pain, and every day she was able to put off taking her medicine a little longer until she broke her addiction.

Atticus said that she was the bravest person he knew. He said that real courage came when you knew you were licked before you started, but you started anyway, and you see it through no matter what.

Chapter 12

Now that Jem was 12, he started changing and telling Scout to start acting like a girl. He didn't want to spend as much time with Scout, so she spent her time with Cal. Cal said Jem was growing up and even started calling him Mr. Jem like he was an adult.

That Summer, Dill didn't visit because his mom got married. He had to stay at home. Atticus went away for two weeks, so on Sunday, Cal took the kids to her church. The church wasn't fancy, and there were no hymnals. Calpurnia's son, Zeebo, led the congregation in singing. He would read one line, and then everyone would sing that line. Cal said that it was because no one else but her and Zeebo knew how to read.

Reverend Sykes asked for donations for Tom Robinson's wife. Later he told Scout and Jem that the church had no better friend than their daddy. Scout asked why no one would hire Tom Robinson's wife, and Cal said it was because of what folks said Tom Robinson did. Jem said that Mr. Ewell accused Mr. Robinson of raping his daughter.

Jem asked Cal why she talked differently around black people. She said she didn't want to put on airs in front of her friends. Cal said it wasn't necessary to tell all you know. It wasn't ladylike, and people get aggravated when someone knows more than them.

When they got home from church, Aunt Alexandra was waiting for them.