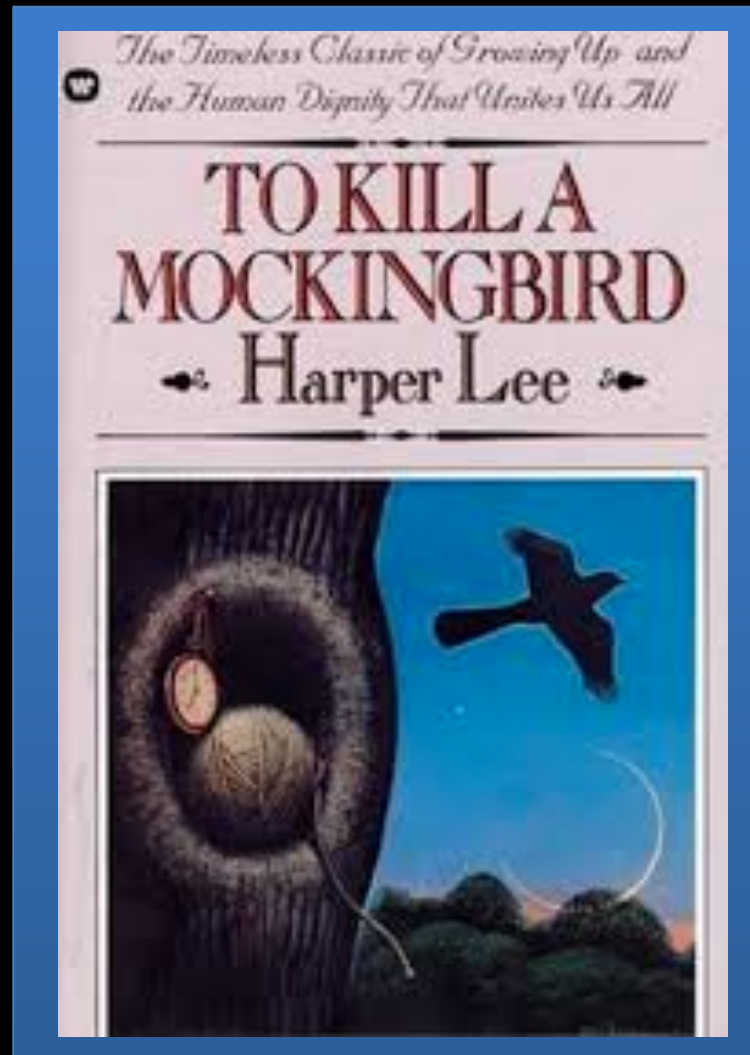


To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapters 22-24



Chapter 22

Atticus was waiting for them outside the courthouse. He didn't seem upset, just like his usual self. Jem was crying. He thought Tom was going to go free. He said it wasn't right. Atticus agreed but said he that Tom still had to see another judge, and Atticus was planning on trying to change the decision.

The next morning, the kitchen table was loaded with food the black people brought to show their thanks to Atticus for defending Tom. Atticus told Cal to tell them thanks, but that they should never do it again because times were too hard.

Jem, Scout, and Dill went to see Miss Maudie. Miss Maudie said that there were people who cared about Tom, and those people had asked Atticus to defend Tom to make sure Tom got a fair trial.

When the children got home, Miss Rachel (Dill's aunt) told them that Mr. Ewell had spit in Atticus' face and told him he'd get back at him if it took the rest of his life.

Chapter 23

All Atticus said about it was that he wished Bob Ewell wouldn't spit tobacco.

But Jem and Scout were afraid that Mr. Ewell would attack Atticus. They wanted Atticus to get a gun, but Atticus said he wouldn't. Atticus said that Mr. Ewell was mad about the trial and told Jem that he should try to stand in Bob Ewell's shoes. Atticus said that Bob spit on him and said mean things because he thought Atticus had shamed him, and this was his way of saving face.

Atticus talked to the children about how a jury is chosen. Scout was sad that women can't be on juries. Atticus said there was one man—a relative of the Cunninghams—that had been on the jury and had to be convinced to convict Tom. Scout said that maybe the Cunninghams weren't so bad after all, and that she would be nice to Walter now and invite him over to play. Aunt Alexandra said she would not because the Cunninghams were trash.

Scout was mad and Jem led her away. He told Scout that he thought there were four different kinds of folks, and he explained. Scout told him she figured there was only one kind of folks—folks. Jem said if that was true then why couldn't they all get along. He figured that he finally knew why Boo Radley wouldn't come out of his house, because he didn't want to.

Chapter 24

Aunt Alexandra invited her over for coffee and gossip. Scout was dressed up in her Sunday dress. She helped serve the food and was proud not to spill anything on her dress. Aunt Alexandra asked Scout to stay. One lady asked Scout where her britches were, and Scout answered under her dress. Everyone laughed except Miss Maudie.

Atticus came into the living room and said he needed Calpurnia. Atticus, Calpurnia, Aunt Alexandra, and Miss Maudie went into the kitchen. Atticus said that Tom Robinson was dead. Prison guards shot him when he was trying to escape. Calpurnia and Atticus left to tell Tom's wife the news.

Aunt Alexandra, Miss Maudie, and Scout went back to the ladies, but they didn't say anything about Tom's death. Aunt Alexandra was upset, but she was hiding it. Scout served the ladies cookies, figuring that if Aunt Alexandra could be a lady so could she.