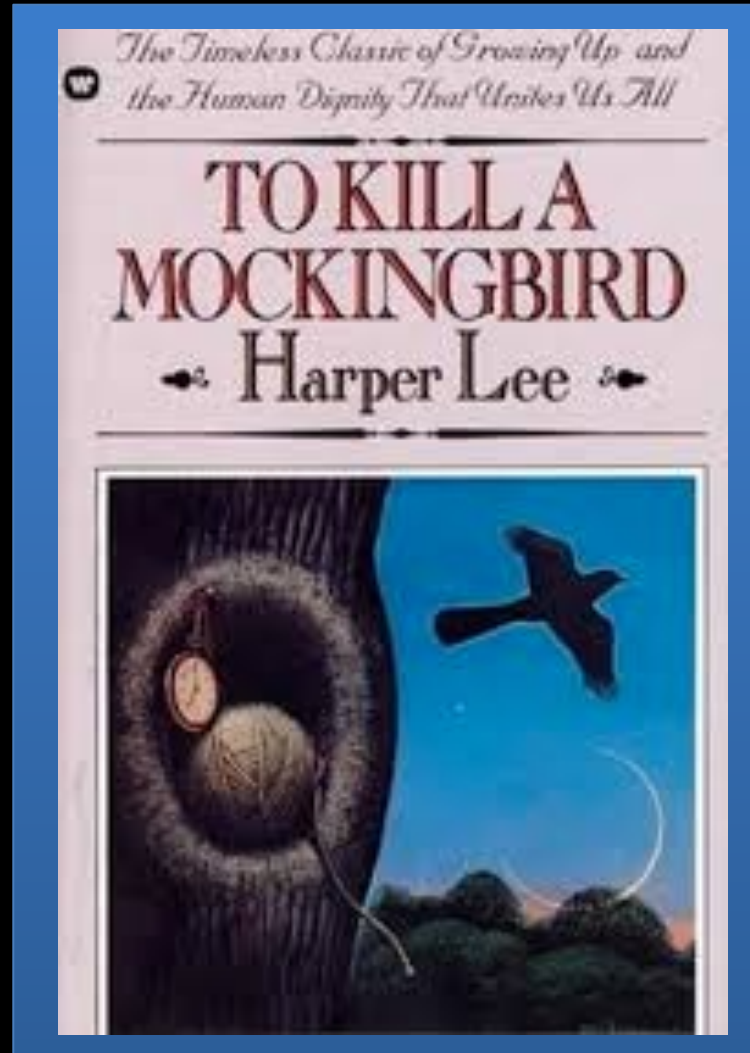


To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapters 19 - 21



Chapter 19

Atticus called Tom Robinson to the stand. When Tom tried to place his hand on the Bible, it fell off. Everyone could see that Tom couldn't use that hand.

Atticus asked Tom questions and they all heard Tom's story. Tom said that he walked by the Ewell's house every day. Sometimes, he helped Mayella by chopping or carrying things for her. Tom said the other children never helped her. As Scout listened, she realized that Mayella must be very lonely. She didn't have any friends.

Tom told what happened on November 21st. He said he was walking by and Mayella called him to come in to fix a door. Mayella had given all the children money to buy ice cream in town. She had saved up for an entire year so she could send them away.

When Tom went in, Mayella asked him to stand on a chair and get something off the tall dresser. When he did, Mayella tried to hug him, but he fell off the chair. Then she tried to kiss him. Tom tried to run away but Mayella stood in front of the door. He didn't want to push her. Then Mr. Ewell was at the window yelling at Mayella that he would kill her. Tom finally got through the door and ran away.

Dill started crying and Scout and Dill left the courtroom.

Chapter 20

Dill was upset because Mr. Gilmer was being so mean to Tom. Dill said it wasn't right, that Mr. Gilmer hadn't been mean to anyone else.

Mr. Dolphus Raymond saw that Dill was upset and offered him a drink from his paper sack. Scout warned him not to, but he did. He told Scout that it was just Coca Cola. Mr. Raymond said he pretended to drink alcohol from a bag so people would leave him alone about having a black girlfriend and biracial children.

Scout and Dill went back inside the courtroom. Atticus was giving his closing arguments. Atticus told the jury that they could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Tom raped Mayella, so they couldn't find Tom guilty. Atticus said that the Mayella lied to cover up her own guilt—she felt guilty because she had tried to kiss a black man.

Just as Atticus finished his speech, Calpurnia came into the courtroom to talk to Atticus.

Chapter 21

Calpurnia had a note for Atticus. Aunt Alexandra had written that Scout and Jem were missing. Mr. Underwood said they weren't missing, they were sitting up in the balcony. Atticus said they had to go home, but finally said that they could come back to the courthouse after dinner. Calpurnia was upset with Scout and Jem for being going missing and being at the trial. Aunt Alexandra was mad too.

Scout and Jem ate dinner then went back to the courthouse. The jurors were still out trying to come to an agreement about whether Tom was guilty or not. Scout fell asleep. Finally, at 11:00, the jurors came back, but as they sat down they wouldn't look at Tom. They found Tom Robinson guilty of hurting Mayella.

Atticus talked to Tom while all the white people left. The black people waited in the balcony. When Atticus started to walk out, all the the black people stood up. They were showing respect to Atticus. They were thanking him for defending Tom.