

Vocabulary !  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
**part one**

### Chapter 1

1. ambled (vb.): walked at a slow, leisurely pace.
2. assuaged (vb.) to lessened or to calmed. Therefore it means that Jem no longer feared that he wouldn't be able to play football.
3. dictum (n.): in this case, a formal statement of principle
4. foray (n.): a quick attack, especially to do something that is unusual or not normal for you. It was certainly not Jem's usual behavior to go near the Radley house; thus, doing so was a foray for him.
5. impotent (adj.): powerless. Simon's fury and anger regarding the Civil War would certainly have been impotent because there would have been nothing he could have done about it.
6. imprudent (adj.): unwise; reckless; irresponsible
7. malevolent (adj.): evil
8. nocturnal (adj.): of or having to do with the night.
9. predilection (n.): a preference, or a preferred way of doing something. Thus, the Radley's preferred way of spending a Sunday afternoon was to keep the doors closed and not receive visitors.
10. repertoire was
11. vapid (n. + adj.): repertoire is all the special skills a person has; all the things she or he can do. Vapid, in this case, means boring or uninteresting. So, when Scout says that their repertoire was vapid, she means that the games they had invented to pass the time had become old and had lost their interest.

### Chapter 2

12. cunning (adj.): in this case, attractive or cute -- almost too cute. Often it means sly or clever.
13. condescended (vb.): agreed to do something that you believe to be beneath your dignity. Jem condescended to take Scout to school, even though, as a fifth-grader, he feels superior to his first-grade sister
14. immune (adj.): In this case, something has no effect on you. The story Miss Caroline reads to the class has no effect on them; they don't get it.
15. indigenous (adj.): belonging to a particular region or country
16. seceded (vb.): broke away from. During the Civil War, Alabama was one of the states that broke away, or seceded from the Union.
17. sojourn (n.): a brief visit
18. subsequent
19. mortification (adj. + n.): Something that is subsequent will follow closely after something else. Mortification is a feeling of shame or the loss of self respect. If Scout had been able to explain things to Miss Caroline, she could have prevented her teacher from losing self respect by feeling shameful later on.
20. vexations (n.): things that cause annoyance or problems.

### Chapter 3

21. amiable (adj.): friendly
22. compromise (n.): an agreement where each person agrees to give up something
23. contemptuous (adj.): to have the feeling that someone or something is beneath you; that it or they are worthless. The Ewell boy obviously feels this way about his teacher, Miss Caroline.
24. contentious (adj.): always ready to argue or fight
25. diminutive (adj.): smaller than ordinary
26. disapprobation (n.): disapproval

27. discernible (adj.): understandable; noticeable; perceptible
28. erratic (adj.): irregular. Calpurnia usually uses good grammar, but when she is angry, her grammar is irregular.
39. gravely (adv.): seriously
30. onslaught (n.): a violent attack
31. persevere (v.): to carry on in spite of difficulties
32. tranquility (n.): peacefulness; serenity

## Chapter 4

33. abominable (adj.): awful; repulsive
34. auspicious (adj.): favorable
35. contradicting (v.): opposing or challenging; saying something the opposite to
36. melancholy (adj.): sad and gloomy
37. quelling (of) 38. nausea : (v. + n.): Quelling is quieting or pacifying something. Nausea is the feeling you get when your stomach is upset and you feel as if you're about to vomit. Scout is trying to quell her nausea, or make her stomach settle down.
39. triumphantly (adv.): in victory or success; proudly
40. tyranny (n.): cruelty; domination; oppression; dictatorship
41. strolled (v.): walked in a casual or leisurely way

## Chapter 5

- 42 asinine (adj.): stupid; silly
43. benevolence (n.): in this case, a generous or thoughtful gift; often, kindness or generosity
44. benign (adj.): kind and gentle; harmless
45. cordiality (n.) warmth; friendliness
46. edification (n.): education; instruction
47. inquisitive (adj.): questioning; prying; curious
48. morbid (adj.): gruesome; horrible
49. placidly (adv.): calmly; quietly
50. quibbling (vb.): a type of arguing where you avoid the main point by bringing up petty details
51. tacit (adj.) silently agreed upon. Thus, the children know that they can play on Miss Maudie's front lawn even though she never directly told them that it was all right to do so.

## Chapter 6

54. beckoning (v.) calling; signaling
53. dismemberment (n.): the tearing or cutting of a person's limbs (arms and legs) off. Although it is unlikely that anyone would have actually pulled off Dill's arms and legs, Lee uses the word to point out how outraged Miss Rachel must have been to discover that the children had been playing strip poker.
52. eerily (adv.): weirdly; mysteriously
55. ensuing (adj.): coming **immediately** after something else.
57. malignant (adj.): dangerous; evil
58. prowess (n.): superior ability or skill
59. ramshackle (adj.): loose or rickety; about to fall apart
56. respiration (n.): breathing
60. rigid (adj.): stiff
61. waning (adj.): becoming less bright, intense, or strong. The moonlight is waning because it's getting closer to morning, and the moon is changing its position in the sky.

## Chapter 7

- 62. cleaved (vb.): stuck
- 63. grim (adj.): gloomy; depressing
- 64. meditative (adj.): To meditate is to reflect upon something, or think about it. When Jem give the patch on the tree a meditative pat, he does so in a thoughtful manner.
- 65. palate (n.): the roof of one's mouth
- 66. perpetual 67. embalming (adj. + n.): Something that is perpetual lasts forever. Embalming is the process of preserving a dead body.
- 68. vigil (n.): a period of time when a person or group stays in a place and quietly waits and watches. Jem is waiting and watching for Mr. Nathan to appear.

## Chapter 8

- 69. aberrations (n.): deviations, or a moving away from, something that is normal.
- 70. caricatures (n.): representations of a person where certain features of that person are exaggerated or distorted.
- 71. cordial (adj.): warm and friendly
- 72. meteorological (adj.): anything to do with meteorology or weather.
- 73. perpetrated (vb.): carried out; committed
- 74. procured (vb): got
- 75. prophets (n.): people able to predict the future.
- 76. unfathomable (adj.): can not be understood.

## Chapter 9

- 77. analogous (adj.): similar; comparable
- 78. attire (n.): clothing
- 79. compensation (n.): pay for something or to make up for something.
- 80. constituted (vb.): made up
- 81. deportment (n.): behavior
- 82. evasion (n.): avoidance of doing or answering something directly.
- 83. fanatical (adj.): with extreme enthusiasm, interest, zeal, etc. goes beyond what is reasonable.
- 84. gallantly (adv.): politely; in the manner of a gentleman
- 85. gastric (adj.): of, in, or near the stomach. A stomach ache would be a gastric complaint.
- 86. gravitated (vb.): Gravity is, of course, the force that pulls you to earth and keeps you from floating into outer space. When you gravitate toward something or someone, you find yourself being pulled in the direction of that object or person.
- 87. impaired (adj.): damaged; weakened
- 88. indicative (adj.): Something that is indicative of something shows or displays something. The manner in which Simon Finch arranged his house showed something about him.
- 89. innate (adj.): Something that is innate is a natural part of something else. To Scout, cuss words have a natural sort of attraction to them; an innate attractiveness. They have value all on their own for her.
- 90. inordinately (adv.): Inordinate means too great or too many. Cousin Ike Finch is too vain about his beard; inordinately vain.
- 91. mishaps (n.): unlucky or unfortunate accidents
- 92. mortify (vb.) humiliate; embarrass
- 93. obstreperous (adj.): noisy and unruly

94. provocation (n.): To provoke is to excite some sort of feeling; often anger or irritation. Uncle Jack tells Scout that, as far as cuss words are concerned, he doesn't see the use for them unless they are used when one is very angry or provoked to use them.
95. subdued (vb.): Someone who has been subdued has been soothed or softened and made less intense.
96. tarried (vb.): delayed; waited
97. tentatively (adv.): To be tentative is to be hesitant or unsure. Francis asks Scout his question tentatively because he is unsure as to her reaction and more than a little afraid to face her.
98. wary (adj.): To be wary means to be cautious on your guard against something. In this instance, the children were never afraid of or cautious about their uncle's appearance.

## **Chapter 10 -**

99. articulate (adj.): able to speak and express oneself
100. attributes (n.): characteristics; qualities of a person or thing
101. feeble (adj.): weak; frail
102. inconspicuous (adj.) To be conspicuous is to attract attention. To be inconspicuous is to do the opposite; to not attract attention. Scout wishes that Atticus would be more inconspicuous; that is, he would attract less attention to himself.
103. peril (n.): danger
104. rudiments (n.): principles; elements; subjects to be learned
105. vaguely (adv.): in an unclear or imprecise way

## **Chapter 11**

106. antagonized (vb): caused (someone) to feel hostile or angry
106. commence (vb.): begin
107. decreed (vb): A decree is an official order. As her older brother, Jem decreed what he and Scout would do.
108. escapade (n.): reckless prank
109. essence (n.): fundamental nature; most important quality
110. infuriated (vb.): angered greatly
111. livid (adj.): pale; lead-colored. Livid can also mean red, as in the color someone's face gets when that person becomes angry.
112. oppressive (adj.): overbearing; hard to put up with
113. passé (adj.): old-fashioned
114. propensities (n.): inclinations or tendencies
115. reconnaissance (n.): examination
116. relic (n): something of historic interest that has survived from the past. In this case, Scout is referring to a gun that would have been used in the [Civil War](#).
117. tirade (n.): a long angry speech
118. tranquil (adj.): calm
119. undulate (vb.): to move in waves or in a wavy manner
120. viscous (adj.): sticky