

Freshmen Honors English
Summer Reading Assignment

Book 1: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. You can find this in most bookstores and libraries, as well as online at www.amazon.com, www.BarnesandNoble.com, etc.

Book 2: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor- Revised* (ISBN: 9780062301673)
by Thomas C. Foster

Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. You can find this in most bookstores and libraries, as well as online at www.amazon.com, www.BarnesandNoble.com, etc.

Once you have read both texts, you should complete the attached set of questions. Carefully provide complete, thorough, and original answers for each of the questions provided. Your English Honors teachers at Southington High School expect high-quality answers—not short phrases and one-sentence answers. Look up any terms or words you do not know. Type your answers and save them—if you can. When typing, do not type the questions—type only question/letter numbers and the answers. If you cannot type your answers, write them on a separate sheet(s) of paper. **NOTE: Do not write your answers on this handout.**

You will turn in your answers to the teacher at the start of the next school year. All page numbers noted in the questions for *To Kill a Mockingbird* here refer both to a Warner Books edition of this novel and to a Grand Central Publishing edition of this novel. Page numbers in this document are expressed as “(A/B)” The “A” number is from a Warner Books copy. The “B” number is from a Grand Central Publishing copy.

• Here's an example: “(5-6/6)”.

In this example “5-6” refers to the Warner Books edition, and “6” refers to the Grand Central Publishing edition. Your page numbers may be different.

Read the book. Many students believe that watching a movie version of a book is the same as reading the book. This is not correct. The movie version of *To Kill a Mockingbird* differs in significant ways from the novel. All assignments on this novel are based on close readings from the book, as well.

In addition, students will complete a graded “pressure-write” timed response based on the novel during the first week of the school year.

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After Reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1) In Chapter 1, (5-6/6), the narrator notes, “But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.” This alludes to another famous quote.

- a) Who in history said, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”?
- b) What was the situation in which it was said?
- c) Given what you have learned about this quotation, estimate the year it is in the novel.

2) In Chapter 10, (98/130), after Atticus shoots a mad dog, Miss Maudie explains why Atticus, the best shot in the county, had not shot a gun in many years: “I guess he decided he wouldn’t shoot till he had to....” What does Miss Maudie’s remark tell the reader about Atticus? (This requires making an inference.)

3) In Chapter 11, (112/149), Atticus gives his idea of courage: “It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.” Do you agree with this definition of courage? Explain your answer.

4) Closely read Chapter 15 and briefly *summarize what happens here*.

5) *Summarize* Miss Gates’ lecture on democracy in the classroom and explain its irony after remark to Miss Crawford outside the courtroom (Chapter 26).

6) Carefully read Chapter 30. *Briefly summarize* the argument between Atticus and Sheriff Tate. This chapter is tricky and a little hard to understand; you will need to make inferences and know the characters well. You may need to read it more than once to understand it.

7) Carefully read Chapter 31. On page 279/374, Scout notes, “Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them.” What event(s) on that page and on the previous one or two pages *leads the narrator* to that conclusion?

8) In Chapter 31, Scout says of a character in *The Gray Ghost*: “Atticus, he was real nice....” Atticus responds, “Most people are Scout, when you finally see them.” To whom is Atticus referring? Who does Jem discover to be nice after he gets to know him? *Explain your answers thoroughly*.

Continue to the next page for question for connections to *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*



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After reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, answer the following short answer questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Consider the five features of a “quest.” If we think of Atticus as our *quester*, **identify and explain his *place to go*, his *stated reason for going there*, the *challenges and trials* he faces, and the *self-knowledge* he gains at the end.**
2. In “Nice to Eat With You: Acts of Communion”, Forster states that “Generally, eating with another is a way of saying, ‘I’m with you, I like you, we form a community together’” (21). **Explain the type of shared friendship that occurs when Dolphus Raymond shares a Coke with Jem and Scout.**
3. In “It’s All Political”, Forster reminds us that “nearly all writing is political on some level” (84). Some scholars consider the real-life murder of Emmett Till (1955) as a major influence on *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960). **Identify some similarities between the murder of Emmett Till and the murder of Tom Robinson.** (You may need to look up background information on the Emmett Till case).
4. While Jem and Scout do not experience much violence in the novel first-hand, violence is constantly in the background: Atticus was a soldier in WW1, the townspeople try to lynch Tom and he is later shot trying to escape jail, and Bob Ewell is proven to beat his daughter. **How does the author use violence to bring Jem and Scout out of the “world of childhood wonder” into a world of real adult violence?**
5. Foster explains the literary symbol in Chapter 12 of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. **Explain what mockingbirds symbolize within *To Kill a Mockingbird*.**

Done!