Chapter 22

1. Although Atticus did not want his children in court, he defends Jem's right to know what has happened. Explain, in your own words, Atticus's reasons for this. (Look at the speech beginning, "This is their home, sister.")

Atticus feels that the adults have made the world the way that it is and the children have to learn to live in that world. They can't hide from it and need to be exposed to it as early as possible.

2. Miss Maudie tells Jem that “things are never as bad as they seem.” What reasons does she give for this view?

She names all of the people who helped Tom Robinson, such as the black community, Atticus, and Judge Taylor.

3. Why does Dill say that he will be a clown when he grows up? Do you think he would keep this ambition for long?

He wants to laugh at people all of the time. Answers will vary for the second question.
4. This story is set in the 1930s but was published in 1960. Have attitudes to racism remained the same (in the USA and the UK) or have there been any changes (for the better or worse) since then, in your view?

**Answers will vary.**

5. Why does Bob Ewell feel so angry with Atticus? Do you think his threat is a real one, and how might he try to “get” Atticus?

**He feels Atticus made him look bad in front of the entire town. Answers will vary for the second question.**

Chapter 23

6. What do you think of Atticus's reaction to Bob Ewell's challenge? Should he have ignored Bob, retaliated or done something else?

**He did the right thing by walking away. Bob was looking for a fight and Atticus wouldn’t give it to him.**

7. What is “circumstantial evidence”? What has it got to do with Tom's conviction?

**Circumstantial evidence is evidence that doesn’t absolutely prove guilt. Tom's conviction was based entirely on circumstantial evidence, and not good c.e. at that.**
8. What does Atticus tell Scout about why the jury took so long to convict Tom?

He tells her that a Cunningham was on the jury and didn’t want to convict. The jury actually had to think about the conviction before they did it.

9. Why does Aunt Alexandra accept that the Cunninghams may be good but are not “our kind of folks”? Do you think that people should mix only with others of the same social class? Are class-divisions good or bad for societies?

She tells Scout that they are not people that the Finch family should associate with because they are lower class. Answers will vary for the other questions.

10. At the end of this chapter, Jem forms a new theory about why Boo Radley has never left his house in years. What is this? How likely is it to be true, in your opinion?

He says he doesn’t leave the house because he chooses not to. This is likely to be true because Boo has found a place in which he is comfortable.

Chapter 24

11. Do you think the missionary ladies are sincere in worrying about the “Mrunas” (a tribe in Africa)? Give reasons for your answer.

They are not sincere, as they “discuss” the Mrunas and then move on to town gossip and their snacks.
12. Compare the reactions of Miss Maudie and the other ladies when Scout says she is wearing her “britches” under her dress.

Miss Maudie takes Scout seriously and only laughs at Scout when she intends to be funny. The other ladies choose to make fun of Scout.

13. What is your opinion of the Maycomb ladies, as depicted in this chapter?

The ladies simply gossip and don’t truly care about anyone other than themselves.

14. Explain briefly how Tom was killed. What is Atticus's explanation for Tom's attempted escape? Do you agree with Atticus?

Tom is shot in an escape attempt. Atticus believes that Tom did this because he was tired of the white man dictating his future.

15. How, in this chapter, do we see Aunt Alexandra in a new light? How does Miss Maudie support her?

Aunt Alexandra shows concern for Atticus and Tom. Miss Maudie gives her a pep talk and gets her to go back to the meeting.

Chapter 25

16. How does Maycomb react to the news of Tom’s death?

They gossip about it for a few days and then forget about it.
17. Comment on the idea that Tom's death was “typical”?

Their comments on Tom’s death being “typical” shows how racist their society is.

18. Explain the contrast Scout draws between the court where Tom was tried and “the secret courts of men's hearts”. In what way are hearts like courts?

In a true court of law everyone should receive a fair trial, but people’s hearts are not dictated by law; they are dictated by feeling.

19. Why did Jem not want Scout to tell Atticus about Bob Ewell's comment? Was this a wise thing to ask her to do?

He didn’t want Atticus to worry. Answers will vary for the second question.

Chapter 26

20. In her lesson on Hitler, Miss Gates says that "we (American people) don't believe in persecuting anyone". What seems odd to the reader about this claim?

The town just persecuted a black man for being black.

21. Why is Scout puzzled by Miss Gates' disapproval of Hitler?

Scout heard Miss Gates talking badly about Tom Robinson.
22. Why does Scout’s question upset Jem? Is there a simple answer, or any answer, to the question (“How can you hate Hitler an’ then turn around an be ugly about folks right at home?”)

It forces Jem to come to terms with the trial and forces him to relive the unfairness of it all.

Chapter 27

23. What three things does Bob Ewell do that alarm Aunt Alexandra?

Bob loses his job, breaks in to Judge Taylor’s house, and follows Tom’s widow home.

24. Why, according to Atticus, does Bob Ewell bear a grudge? Which people does Ewell see as his enemies, and why?

Atticus made Bob look bad in front of the entire town. Bob thought people would make him a hero, but they didn’t care about him after the trial was over. Bob sees those involved with the trial as being his enemies.

25. What was the purpose of the Halloween pageant? What practical joke had persuaded the grown ups to have an organized event?

The purpose was to keep all of the kids together so they didn’t pull pranks. The children of the town had taken all of the furniture of two women and placed it in the basement.
Chapter 28

26. Comment on the way this chapter reminds the reader of earlier events in the novel.

_We are reminded of Boo Radley and the superstitions involved with him._

27. Why does Jem say that Boo Radley must not be at home? What is ironic about this? (Is it true? Does he really mean it? Why might it be important for him and Scout that Boo should not be at home?)

_The lights are not on. Boo never leaves the house so it’d be ironic for him not to be there._

28. Scout decides to keep her costume on while walking home. How does this affect her understanding of what happens on the way?

_She can't see or hear things the way they actually happen._

29. Why had Atticus not brought a chair for the man in the corner? Who might this stranger be?

_Scout believes it is because the man is a country man and doesn't want to sit. This stranger might be Boo Radley._
Chapter 29

30. What causes the “shiny clean line” on the otherwise “dull wire” of Scout's costume?

Bob stabbed at Scout. The line is the knife slash.

31. What explanation does Atticus give for Bob Ewell's attack?

Atticus said Bob must have been crazy.

32. What does Heck Tate give as the reason for the attack?

Heck said that Bob was drunk and mean.

33. Do you think the sheriff's explanation or Atticus's is the more likely to be true?

Answers will vary.

Chapter 30

34. Who does Atticus think caused Bob Ewell's death?

Atticus believes Jem killed Bob Ewell.
35. Why does Heck Tate insist that Bob Ewell's death was self-inflicted? In what way is this partly true?

He demonstrates how Bob could have stabbed himself, but he is really protecting Boo Radley.

36. Is Heck Tate right to spare Boo then publicity of an inquest? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers will vary.

37. How does the writer handle the appearance, at the end of the story, of Boo Radley?

She describes Boo as though he has been shut up for many years. He is also detached from the others.

Chapter 31

38. How do the events of the final chapters explain the first sentence in the whole novel?

We find out how Jem broke his arm. The novel comes full circle.

39. Comment on the way the writer summarizes earlier events to show their significance.

She uses Scout standing on the Radley porch to see the events of the novel through his point of view.
40. How does Scout make sense of an earlier remark of Atticus's as she stands on the Radley porch?

She tries to walk in Boo's shoes by seeing things as he did.

41. How much of a surprise is it of find what Boo Radley is really like? Has the story before this point prepared the reader for this discovery?

Answers will vary.

42. At the end of the novel, Atticus reads to Scout. Comment on his choice of story. Does it have any connection with themes earlier in the novel and in its ending?

*The Gray Ghost* is all about misjudging people, just as they had done to Boo. Answers will vary for the other questions.