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*To Kill a Mockingbird*

Reading Post-test

**Read the passage from Chapter 2 of *To Kill a Mockingbird* which begins “Dill left us early in September” and ends “Dewey Decimal System” (pg. 20-24). The paragraph number and first words of each paragraph are listed below.**

**For example:**

1. “Dill left us early in September” MEANS that paragraph 1 starts with the quote “Dill left us early in September”
2. “Dill left us early in September”
3. “Jem condescended to take me”
4. “’You mean we can’t’”
5. “’We’ll do like we always’”
6. “It certainly was”
7. “Miss Caroline was no more”
8. “Miss Caroline printed”
9. “Miss Caroline began the day”
10. “Then she went to the”
11. “Everybody did; most of the”
12. “I supposed she chose me”
13. “’Teach me?’ I said”
14. “’If he didn’t teach you’”
15. “’Jem says I was’”
16. “Miss Caroline apparently thought”
17. “’Ma’am?’”
18. “’Your father does not’”
19. “I mumbled that I was sorry”
20. “I knew I had annoyed”
21. “’If I didn’t have to’”
22. “’Don’t worry, Scout’”
23. “’Yeah Jem, but I don’t wanna’”
24. “’Sure you do’”
25. “I contented myself”
26. “’I’m just trying to tell you’”

**Read the passage from Chapter 2 of *To Kill a Mockingbird* which begins “Dill left us early in September” and ends “Dewey Decimal System” (pg. 20-24) and choose the best answer to each question.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ **1. From the jingle that Scout hears in Jem’s pockets, a reader can conclude that –**

1. Atticus thinks Jem is more responsible than Scout
2. Jem and Scout will need money for school supplies
3. Atticus wants Jem to buy something at the store
4. Jem was not really delighted to take Scout to school

**\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The simile in paragraph 8 indicates that the students were –**

1. Bored
2. Nervous
3. Excited
4. Amused

**\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following best describes the main idea of paragraph 11?**

1. Scout knows how to read.
2. Scout’s teacher is upset because Scout can read.
3. Atticus had taught Scout how to read.
4. Most students in first grade do not know how to read.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Based on information in paragraphs 14-17, which of the following appears to be true of Scout?**

1. It is important for Scout to impress her teacher.
2. Scout readily accepts what her brother tells her.
3. Scout enjoys telling people things that are not true.
4. Scout is quick to make excuses for her behavior.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 5. What is the first sign a reader notices that Miss Caroline is upset with Scout?**

1. Scout is asked to read from *My First Reader*.
2. Miss Caroline tells Scout to tell her father not to teach her any more.
3. Miss Caroline chooses Scout to read the alphabet.
4. A faint line appears between Miss Caroline’s eyebrows.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 6. In Scout’s statement in paragraph 5 that Miss Caroline “hauled me up to the front of the room,” the word hauled suggests that Miss Caroline moved Scout –**

1. Gently
2. Roughly
3. Quickly
4. Slowly

**\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Read this sentence from the passage.**

The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities indigenous to that region.

**Which definition best matches the meaning of the word harbor as it is used in this sentence?**

1. To give shelter
2. To conceal or hide
3. To keep or hold in the mind
4. To track down

**\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Halfway through her first day, Scout wanted to leave school because –**

1. She had to stay away from Jem
2. Her teacher had made her stand in the corner
3. She didn’t want to study cows
4. She wouldn’t be able to read with her father

**\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The sentence “Miss Caroline told me to tell my father not to teach me anymore, it would interfere with my reading” can be described as –**

1. Allusion
2. Hyperbole
3. Irony
4. Metaphor

**\_\_\_\_\_ 10. In paragraph 18, compelled means –**

1. Forced
2. Interested
3. Discouraged
4. Relieved

**Read this article and answer questions 11-15.**

**The Scottsboro Trial**

The trial of Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is almost certainly based on a real-life trial which occurred in Scottsboro, Alabama, when Harper Lee was just six years old. Nine young black men, ranging in age from twelve to twenty-one, were accused of a crime. They were accused of raping two white women.

The women told police that they had been assaulted by the men while all of them were riding on a train from Tennessee to Alabama. The nine men were immediately arrested and sent to the jail in Scottsboro to await trial, even though each of the accused asserted his own innocence. The night of their arrest, a crowd of white men surrounded the jail, intent on lynching the accused men. Their plan was thwarted, however, when the governor, B.M. Miller, ordered the National Guard to Scottsboro to protect the suspects.

The trial of the “Scottsboro Boys,” as they became known, began twelve days later. The accused men claimed that they had not even been in the same car on the train as the two women. Defense attorneys argued that at least two of the men, one of whom was blind and another who was too sick to walk without help, could not possibly have committed such a crime. Despite a lack of evidence that the alleged crime had even happened, eight of the nine men were quickly convicted and sentenced to death. A mistrial was declared in the case of the twelve-year old boy when one juror refused to go along with his fellow jurors, who demanded the death penalty. Attorneys for the eight convicted men began a process of appeals which would eventually reach all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. All nine of the young men were sent to prison to await the outcome of the legal proceedings.

In November of 1932, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered new trials for all of the Scottsboro defendants because they had not had adequate legal representation. The retrial of the first defendant began the next March in Decatur and was presided over by a local judge named James Horton. On the third day of the trial, after learning of plans for a lynching, the judge angrily addressed the courtroom, telling the audience, “The police have been given orders to shoot if necessary in defense of the black prisoners.” The trial lasted nearly two weeks. One of the two women who had accused the men changed her story. This woman denied that she or her friend had ever been attacked. On April 9, the jury returned a verdict of guilty and again sentenced the defendant to death. Attorneys for the convicted man began immediately to press for yet another retrial, but one supporter admitted, “I don’t see any possibility that they are going to be successful.”

On June 22, in a stunning display of courage and principle, Judge Horton threw out the jury’s verdict and granted the defendant a new trial. Though he had been warned that such an action would be the equivalent of political suicide, Horton had come to believe that all of the defendants were innocent. As predicted, the judge – who had run unopposed in the previous election – was voted out of office in the next election.

The various retrials and appeals for all of the accused men dragged on for years. Eventually, all of the men were either released from or escaped from prison, but the damage done to their lives could never be repaired.

**\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Which of the following questions is NOT answered in this selection?**

1. How many men were arrested in the Scottsboro case?
2. How many times had Judge Horton been elected prior to the trial?
3. How old was the youngest Scottsboro defendant?
4. Why was Judge Horton not re-elected?

**\_\_\_\_\_ 12. The author’s attitude is MOST evident in his –**

1. Description of Governor B.M. Miller’s response
2. Explaining that the Supreme Court ordered new trials
3. Pointing out Harper Lee’s probable inspiration for the Tom Robinson trial
4. Discussion of Judge Horton’s actions

**\_\_\_\_\_ 13. The best antonym for thwarted as it is used in the second paragraph is –**

1. Promoted
2. Delayed
3. Spoiled
4. Uncovered

**\_\_\_\_\_ 14. The organization of this article is best described as –**

1. An assertion followed by evidence
2. A question followed by several possible answers
3. A chronological account of events
4. A series of comparisons between a fictional trial and a real-life trial

**\_\_\_\_\_ 15. The best resource for a person who wanted to learn more about the Scottsboro trial would be –**

1. A biography of Harper Lee
2. Newspaper accounts from the time period
3. An encyclopedia article on Judge James Horton
4. A copy of the Alabama penal code