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ABSTRACT

This thematic unit is all about what a classic novel about race relations in the 1930s American South, "To Kill a Mockingbird," and a frequently banned contemporary teen story about a candy sale, "The Chocolate War," have in common. The unit considers what people have in common, what it means to stand apart, and what individuals do when forced to choose. It takes student readers day-by-day and chapter-by-chapter first through "The Chocolate War" (39 chapters) and then through "To Kill a Mockingbird" (31 chapters). The unit gives vocabulary for each chapter, offers suggested activities following readings, presents post-reading questions for students, and lists topics for discussion or final essays. (NKA)

Stand Together or Apart

A Thematic Unit

For

The Chocolate War

By
Robert Cormier

And

To Kill A Mockingbird

By
Harper Lee

Prepared by Lisa Yinger
Adolescent Literature
Spring 2001

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L. Yinger

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

What Do These Books have to Do with Each Other or with Me?

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
And
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

What could a highly praised classic novel about race relations in the South during the 1930's possibly have in common with a frequently banned contemporary teen story about a candy sale? More than you think.

What we have in common, what it means to stand apart, and what we do when we find ourselves forced to choose, is what this unit is all about.

Unit Motivation

Unit introduction instructions to class:

Take out a sheet of paper and make a list of five to ten things that you have in common with ALL the other students in the class.

(Possible examples – approximate age, where they live, the school they attend, that they are assigned to this class, that they have a telephone book in the house)

Let's go around the class and read some examples and see if any must be eliminated from our lists, if for example someone does not have a telephone book in the house.

Now list something that makes you different from EVERYONE else in the class.

(Possible examples – nose ring, tattoo, Black, the tallest kid, the only football player)

Look at your answer. If I read it aloud, would everyone know whose paper I had? In some instances that might be the case, if it is a difference of which we are all aware. But perhaps you listed a difference that no one else may even know about, a secret perhaps. Any escaped criminals, Russian spies or students once abducted by aliens? Some of our differences are things of our choosing – a nose ring or blue hair. Some of our differences are put upon us without our consent. The tallest kid didn't choose to be the tallest kid, whether or not he likes that difference.

It's a funny thing about people. We all like to fit in AND we all like to think we are special. How you work out that paradox is the kind of thing you may be struggling with now, and the kind of thing you will still face from time to time in the years to come. We'd all like to understand the people around us and understand ourselves. Sometimes that's easy. Most times it is not.

You've all heard the expression "LIVE AND LEARN." It's true you learn a lot just from just experiencing life. But if you're the oldest child in the family, how can you ever really know what it's like to be the youngest? If you're the tallest kid in school, do you know how it feels to be the shortest? The neat thing about books is they give you a chance to experience something without breaking curfew, breaking the law, or even breaking your neck. (But Be Warned! – you may have to break a sweat).

The words on the page will be the same for everyone but I think you'll find that what they mean might be very different for each member of the class. As you read, look for things in you have in common with the characters in the book and watch to see how your reaction to the reading is similar to and different from that of your classmates. Consider what may account for those shared reactions and differences.

THE CHOCOLATE WAR

Day One

Chapter One

Goober advises Jerry the coach is looking for guts.

He had never felt so lonely in his life, abandoned, defenseless.

Jerry thinks of himself as a coward, like Peter in the Bible.

He feels good that he may have made the team, then he remembers his mother. *The exhilaration of the moment vanished and he sought it in vain, like seeking ecstasy's memory an instant after jacking off and encountering only shame and guilt.*

Characters

Jerry Renault

The Goober

Vocabulary

simultaneously

lassitude

wary

Chapter Two

Obie takes notes as Archie makes assignments for the Vigils. **What impressions do you have of these two characters? How does Archie explain how his view of religion differs from that of Obie's?**

Archie's assignments are offbeat cruelties that have nothing to do with pain or violence. **What other kind of cruelties are there?** We learn Jerry is the son of a pharmacist, his mother died recently and his assignment involves chocolates. The goal posts look like empty crucifixes to Obie. **What is the significance?**

Characters

Archie Costello

Norman Stanton

Roland Goubert

Jerry Renault

Brother Eugene

Vocabulary

benevolently

uncanny

languidly

intricacies

psychological

contemplate

Chapter Three

Jerry looks at a girlie magazine and feels guilty. A hippie accuses Jerry of staring at him. The hippie calls Jerry, "*Square boy. Middle-aged at fourteen, fifteen. Already caught in a routine.*"

Jerry looks at the advertising placards on the bus where someone has written Why? and someone added Why not? **Is being called square or middle-aged a put down? In what way?**

Vocabulary

surreptitiously

perusals

taunts

languid

placards

Chapter Four

Archie learns from Brother Leon that a special deal on chocolates has been made. There are twenty thousand boxes to sell. Leon says the headmaster is ill and he will be responsible for the sale.

Archie believed in always doing the smart thing. Not the thing you ached to do, not the impulsive act, but the thing that would pay off later. Is Archie smart? Is Brother Leon smart?

Characters

Brother Leon

Vocabulary

vulnerable

quota

ingratiating

venomous

exploiting

feigning

condone

audacity

influence

Day Two

Pre-reading

How important is it to understand why somebody does something? An author can tell us or show us a person's motives. Look for examples of each in the chapters ahead.

Try to determine the point of view used in *The Chocolate War*. Is it a good choice?

Chapter Five

Goober gets his assignment as Archie wonders why he enjoys being the Assigner. (He remembers a Grouch Marx routine.) **How does the box control the Assigner?** If he picks the black marble he must complete the assignment. **Why is some control needed? Wouldn't other Vigils keep a person from getting out of line?**

Vocabulary

fertile

eluded

irrevocable

inscrutable

ingenious

Characters

Carter

Chapter Six

Brother Leon pretends to accuse Bailey of cheating. *For the first time, Bailey looked at the class itself, in mute appeal, like something wounded, lost, abandoned.* Jerry hates what Brother Leon is doing to Bailey but he is silent. One lone voice calls out to stop. Leon tells the class they responded like Nazi Germany. To Bailey he says, *"You passed the biggest test of all- you were true to yourself."*

Could a teacher manipulate you into turning against one of your classmates?

Characters

Gregory Bailey

Vocabulary

caricature

sacrilegious

accessory

Chapter Seven

Emile Janza has a special talent for “reaching people.” He discovered early that nobody wanted trouble. *The knowledge was a revelation.* What other truth did Emile know? He knew *people had a fear of being embarrassed, or humiliated, of being singled out for special attention.*

Emile asks Archie about a picture.

**Do you hate it when there is trouble? Do you do things to avoid trouble or being singled out?
What’s the worst thing that could happen to a kid in school?**

Frivolous filler or nifty nuance?

Emile wishes he could talk to Archie about stuff, *like how he sometimes felt actually horny when he roughhoused a kid or tackled a guy viciously in football.*

Characters

Emile Janza

Carlson

Chapter Eight

Goober gets some help with his assignment from some masked classmates. He is sworn to secrecy. **Who do you think came to Goober’s aid? Is this realistic?**

Vocabulary

attainable

Day Three

Pre-reading

At your age you may be thinking about how you would like your future to look. List a few things describing the life you would like to have.

Chapter Nine

After his mother's death, Jerry's anger and feelings of abandonment gave way to "something worse" – emptiness. Jerry is frightened by his father's boring life. *He hated to think of his own life stretching ahead of him that way, a long succession of days and nights that were fine, fine – not good, not bad, not great, not lousy, not exciting, not anything.... Wasn't each man different? Didn't a man have a choice?*

Do you worry that your life will be dull? How much choice do we have?

Jerry decides to do something with his life. *For no reason at all, he thought of Gregory Bailey.*

What was special about Gregory Bailey? If you could trade lives with someone, with whom would you trade? Why?

Characters

Mrs. Hunter

Vocabulary

diagnosis

Chapter Ten

Brother Leon announces the chocolate sale like he is launching the Crusades. Archie, who doesn't sell candy himself, decides to spread his quota among five boys.

Vocabulary

concede

edifice

skepticism

endorsement

Crusades

Chapter Eleven

Brother Eugene's Room Nineteen falls apart as the result of the assignment. Archie times the thirty-seven second event from the hallway. *He knew that this was one of his major triumphs, one of those long-shot assignments that paid off beautifully, certain to become legend.*

Brother Leon confronts Archie. Archie's response is to "always deny everything, never apologize, never admit anything." Archie is humiliated.

Characters

Brian Kelly

Albert LeBlanc

John Lowe

Vocabulary

pandemonium

havoc

diversion

tumultuous

Chapter Twelve

Jerry completes a pass to Goober for a moment of bliss. He receives a summons from The Vigils.
Have you ever had a perfect moment of glory?

Characters

Adamo

Croteau

Vocabulary

blitz

annihilating

consecutive

verge

elude

raucous

Chapter Thirteen

Goober is depressed by the incident in Room Nineteen. Brother Eugene hasn't been seen. *Despite the adulation of the guys at school, he felt as if there was some kind of distance between him and the fellows. They admired him, sure, but didn't want to get too close in case something backfired.*
Jerry refuses to take the chocolates.

Characters

(roll call)

Beauvais

Crane

Caroni

Harnett

Johnson

Santucci

Tessier

Williams

Vocabulary

adulation

intimidate

apprehension

Post Reading

Now look back at your list. Are there items on your list that would isolate you from other people? What are the problems associated with being famous, or rich, or the best at a particular skill?

Day Four

How much choice do we have? How do our choices determine the course of our lives? What choices have you made that continue to shape your life?

Chapter Fourteen

On the fourth day of the sale Jerry still refuses to take the chocolates. Tubs is using money from the chocolate sale to buy a bracelet for his beautiful girlfriend Rita. Paul thinks his parents useless. Brian Cochran is picked as sale treasurer by Brother Leon. Brother Leon issues an inflated sales report. **From whose point of view do we see Jerry's refusal to sell chocolates? (Goover) Why might the author have made that choice?**

Discuss how students approach the sale differently. What accounts for those differences?

Characters

John Sulkey

Fontaine

Parmentier

Tubs Casper

Rita

Ossie Baker

Paul Consalvo

Brian Cochran

Malloran

Vocabulary

divert

furtively

discrepancy

contention

Chapter Fifteen

Archie tells Emile Janza someday he will have the chance to get the photograph, but there is no photograph. Janza orders a kid to get him cigarettes. Archie is "*fascinated by Janza, crude and gross as he was. The world was made up of two kinds of people – those who were victims and those who victimized.*" **Is the world made up of victims and victimizers? Are there other choices? Can you think of someone who is neither a victim or a victimizer? Why?**

Vocabulary

bantering

Chapter Sixteen

Brother Leon talks with David Caroni about his "F" and the chocolate sale. *Caroni found himself hung up between choices...* Caroni tells Brother Leon that Jerry's refusal is a Vigil assignment meant to last for ten days. Brother Leon says perhaps the "F" will stand. Caroni sees "*that life was rotten, that there were no heroes, really, and that you couldn't trust anybody, not even yourself.*" **Do you agree with Caroni? Do you think Caroni is more disappointed in Brother Leon or in himself? Why?**

Vocabulary

interpretation

intimately

Day Five

Pre-reading

How do you decide when to go along with the crowd or when to stand apart? What makes a decision difficult? What does it take to go against the majority? Can you think of a time when you stood apart?

Chapter Seventeen

What is the double meaning of Jerry's statement, "I'm playing ball"?

Even though the Vigil assignment has ended, Jerry continues to refuse to sell chocolates.

Cities fell. Earth opened. Planets tilted. Stars plummeted. And the awful silence. Is it effective? Why?

Vocabulary

buoyant

Chapter Eighteen

Jerry asks himself why he continued to refuse the chocolates. *Why did you do it? I don't know.*

What significance, if any, do you attach to the image of Jerry's sheet twisted about him like a shroud? Jerry thinks about death, his mother, and the way Brother Leon treats people.

And then there came a time when Jerry was tired of it all, tired of watching the teacher, disgusted with the contest of wills that wasn't really a contest because Jerry had no choice. Cruelty sickened Jerry- and the assignment, he realized after a few days, was cruel...

He remembers the hippie, *like some grotesque John the Baptist.*

Vocabulary

interrogator

shroud

specter

pretense

indifference

vulnerability (chapter 4)

grotesque

Chapter Nineteen

A boy on the bus tells Jerry he's "got guts." *Jerry blushed with pleasure despite himself. Who didn't want to be admired? And yet he felt guilty, knowing that he was accepting the kid's admiration under false pretenses, that he wasn't cool at all, not at all. Should Jerry feel pride or guilt? Why?*

Goober is concerned. Jerry has a poster in his locker that has an Eliot quote, "*Do I dare disturb the universe?*" Jerry refuses to sell chocolates leaving him desolate *like someone washed up on a beach, a lone survivor in a world full of strangers. Why might Jerry feel alone even as others express their admiration? Can he chose to accept the chocolates now?*

Characters

Benson

Vocabulary

inhibitions

haggard

immensity

spontaneous

premeditation

Chapter Twenty

Brother Jacques' class goes wild when they hear the word "environment." We learn it was Obie who helped Goober with his assignment. Obie is expected to make the assignments work. Archie says Brother Jacques will stop saying "environment" when he figures out the game, but he tips him off and Brother Jacques plays a prank on the class. **Is this a good assignment? Why or Why not?**

Vocabulary

pandemonium (chapter 11)

reigned

aghast

futile

Characters

Brother Jacques

Chapter Twenty-one

Kevin may be in line to become a Vigil. He and Danny discuss not selling candy. Howie Anderson, president of the junior class, tells Richy Rondell he isn't going to sell any more candy. "*Something I never thought of before-just stop selling them.*" Richy agrees and wonders if a class meeting should be called. Howie says everyone should do their own thing. Obie meets Archie in the gym to tell him Jerry is still refusing to sell chocolate, and other students have stopped selling. Archie tells Obie to have Jerry appear before The Vigils. Obie reminds Archie he told Brother Leon The Vigils would help with the sale. **How many people does it take to start a revolution? Can you cite examples from history?**

Characters

Kevin Chartier

Danny Arcangelo

Howie Anderson

Richy Rondell

Vocabulary

gibberish

guffawed

luscious

preliminaries

infuriated

farce

Day Six

Pre-reading

What does it take for evil to succeed? Think about the Holocaust. What does it take to stop evil?

Chapter Twenty-two

Brian Cochran reports the poor sales figures to Brother Leon. Brother Leon says the boys have become infected by a disease called apathy and that Renault is the carrier. **Is the problem apathy?**

Vocabulary

scapegoat
simultaneously
surpassed
litany
sibilant
apathy

Chapter Twenty-three

Goober tells Jerry he is quitting the football team. Jerry looks forward to meeting Ellen Barrett from the bus stop. Goober says Brother Eugene was broken up over the incident in Room Nineteen. Goober says there is something evil at school. He asks Jerry to sell the chocolates. Jerry asks Goober to play football. *Goober shook his head. "I'm not giving anything more to Trinity. Not football, not running, not anything."*

Why does Goober decide to drop out of football? Is he right?

Characters

Ellen Barrett

Vocabulary

abandon

Chapter Twenty-four

Brother Leon calls and tells Archie he is in trouble. Archie learns from Cochran that Brother Leon paid twenty thousand in advance for the chocolates. Brother Leon says Renault has become a symbol to those who would like to see the sale defeated. He tells Archie, *"If the sale goes down the drain, you and The Vigils also go down the drain."* **What do you think Archie will do?**

Vocabulary

disembodied
momentum
taunted (chapter 3)
reluctant
overextended
defiance
precarious
malingerers
malcontents

Chapter Twenty-five

Jerry is called before The Vigils. Members lie about how many boxes they have sold. **Why?** Jerry tells Archie the reason he isn't selling is personal. Archie says nothing is personal among The Vigils.

Carter hated this psychological crap. What does the image of Archie as ventriloquist and Obie as dummy imply? Archie says, "Everybody has to do things in this world they don't want to." A terrific sadness swept over Jerry. As if somebody had died. The way he felt standing in the cemetery that day they buried his mother. And nothing you could do about it. **Is Jerry helpless? Does he have any choices?** Archie tells Jerry to accept the chocolates and that "although The Vigils don't believe in biolence, we have found it necessary to have a punishment code." Obie is sure Jerry will refuse and that the freshman is going to "screw Archie up, at last."

Vocabulary

summons
grotesque (chapter 18)
ventriloquist
crucial

Chapter Twenty-six

Jerry telephones Ellen, loses his nerve and apologizes for bothering her. He continues to refuse to sell chocolates. *But Goober didn't know about this new feeling, the sense that his bridges were burning behind him and for once in his life he didn't care.* Jerry thinks the feeling gave him the courage to call the girl.

What is happening to Jerry?

Vocabulary

demureness
futile (chapter 20)
perversion
exultancy
buoyant (chapter 17)

Day Seven

Pre-reading

If it takes a brave person to stand alone, does it then take bravery to follow?

Chapter Twenty-seven

Frankie Rollo shows up for his assignment but tells The Vigils, “*you guys can’t even scare a punk freshman into selling a few lousy chocolates...*” Carter hits him. The Vigils cheer and drag Rollo away. Carter takes charge and says The Vigils are in trouble. Archie finds himself *suddenly in a roomful of stranger and he decided to do nothing at all*. **What has changed and why?**

Obie reports finding a poster that says “Screw the Vigils” on the school bulletin board. Carter says Archie is the brains and got them into this mess. Archie proposes making selling chocolates popular.

Carter tells Archie he is on probation until the last box of chocolates is sold.

Discuss the actions of Carter and Archie. What did they do right or wrong? Who is the better leader and why?

Characters

Frankie Rollo

Vocabulary

insolent

savoring

improvise

simultaneously (chapter 22)

dissolution

malice

assent

eluded (chapter 12)

Chapter Twenty-eight

Jerry is assaulted at football practice and gets prank phone calls. His locker is broken into and his things destroyed. *For some reason, he felt ashamed*. Brother Andrew says he doesn’t have Jerry’s art project. The class laughs. Jerry ponders his locker poster.

Do I dare disturb the universe?

Yes, I do, I do. I think.

Jerry suddenly understood the poster – the solitary man on the beach standing upright and alone and unafraid, posed at the moment of making himself heard and known in the world, the universe.

What does Jerry now understand?

Characters

Brother Andrew

Vocabulary

askew

vulnerable (chapter 4, 18)

intimate (chapter 16)

riddled

normalcy

derision

notorious

fastidious

camaraderie

Chapter Twenty-nine

Brian Cochran sees the sale is going well, with The Vigils distributing sales among the students.

Why does Cochran go along with The Vigil scheme? *When Brian went to the assembly hall to post the latest figures, a cheering bunch of fellows applauded as he made the entries. No one had ever applauded Brian Cochran before and he felt like a football hero, of all things.*

Vocabulary
vogue
menacingly
hilarity

Chapter Thirty

Goober doesn't sell any more chocolate in a show of sympathy for Jerry, but when told to cheer for the other, he does, a little. Harold Darcy asks Jerry why we won't sell. Jerry responds, "*It's a free country.*" The class laughs. Goober is aware of a change.

Until this particular roll call, the class had been neutral, indifferent toward Jerry's position, maintaining alive-and-let-live attitude. Today however, the air was filled with resentment. More than resentment-hostility. **Why are the students hostile? What do they resent?**

Goober wishes Jerry would bend. Goober is credited with fifty sales.

He willed himself to feel nothing. He didn't feel rotten. He didn't feel like a traitor. He didn't feel small and cowardly. And if he didn't feel all these things, then why was he crying all the way to his locker?

What would you have done in Goober's shoes? How do you think Jerry would want him to respond?

Characters
Harold Darcy

Vocabulary
exultant
ominous
sullenly

Day Eight

Pre-reading

Consider what choices Jerry has available as events unfold.

Chapter Thirty-one

Janza taunts Jerry. His football teammates had dropped passes on purpose at practice. Jerry doesn't want to fight Janza *for the same reason he wasn't selling the chocolates – he wanted to make his own decisions, do his own thing, like they said.* Janza calls Jerry “a fairy, a queer.”

The worst thing in the world – to be called queer. Is it? Why?

Jerry calls Janza a “son of a bitch” and is eager for a fight. A gang beats up Jerry.

Vocabulary

Chided

Gird

Gulliver

Chapter Thirty-two

Injured, Jerry struggles home. He answers a prank call and shouts, “I'm here.” Boys call to him from the street. Jerry hides his injuries from his father and tells him to let the phone off the hook.

Should Jerry tell his father? Why or why not?

Vocabulary

askew (chapter 28)

incapacitated

welled

Chapter Thirty-three

Janza arranged the fight but credits Archie with “the queer pitch.” Archie says, “*If you want to get under a guy's skin, accuse him of being something he isn't. Otherwise, you're only telling him something he knows.*”

Is Archie right?

Archie tells Janza he has no picture of him. Janza isn't sure whether he can believe Archie.

Chapter Thirty-four

Jerry is ignored and his locker is cleaned out. Goober is absent from school. Cochran reports the sale is over and fifty boxes are missing. Brother Leon says, “*one rotten apple does not spoil the barrel.*”

Cochran wonders if *the school is more important than any one kid.* **Is a school ever more important than any one kid?**

Archie tells Obie he has planned a student assembly with a chance for Jerry to raffle his chocolates.

Vocabulary

berth

ineffectual

sanctimoniously

Chapter Thirty-five

Caroni asks the Brothers for permission to hold a football rally. Archie calls Jerry and asks if he wants to get even in a boxing match. Archie claims he was just doing his job as assigner and that he doesn't believe in violence. Jerry falls for the scam. Obie thinks Archie is in charge again. *All of which proves that the meek don't inherit the earth.* Jerry hears the rules but feels he can't back out. Archie tells Janza people are starting to say it took a gang to beat up Jerry. **Why does Jerry agree to Archie's offer? Could Jerry back out now?**

Vocabulary
cajoling
desecration

Day Nine

Pre-reading

What factors could alter what is about to happen? Who or what has control?

Chapter Thirty-six

Raffle tickets will determine what punches will be used in the fight. *The fighters on the platform would have no will of their own.* Archie tells Carter *people are two things: greedy and cruel.* Carter, who bought two tickets, wonders if he is a good guy or a bad guy. **Is Archie right? What do you think of Carter?** Obie brings the black box to the platform. **Why does Obie expect Archie to agree to use the box?** Archie draws two white marbles, one for each fighter.

Vocabulary

submissiveness

scrutinized

garish

Chapter Thirty-seven

Goober had been sick from school for three days but arrives at the stadium. *These fellows in the stands were known to him, they were classmates, but suddenly they'd become strangers.*

The first ticket calls for Jerry to throw a punch. He hesitates until Janza taunts him. Next ticket has Janza hit Jerry. After several punches, Carter reads a ticket that calls for a low blow. When Jerry tries to defend himself the crowd revolts. Jerry and Janza fight.

A new sickness invaded Jerry, the sickness of knowing what he had become, another animal, another beast, another violent person in a violent world, inflicting damage, not disturbing the universe but damaging it. He had allowed Archie to do this to him. **What has happened to Jerry? Why?**

Goober yells to stop the fight but no one hears him. Obie sees Brother Leon. The lights go out. The lights go back on and Archie finds Brother Jacques at the switch.

Chapter Thirty-eight

Goober cradles Jerry. Jerry wants to tell Goober, *"Don't disturb the universe."*

Brother Jacques confronts Archie. Brother Leon tells Archie he didn't use his best judgement but that it was for the school. *Leon was on his side. Beautiful. Leon and The Vigils and Archie. What a great year it was going to be.* **Did Archie succeed?**

Vocabulary

subdued

Chapter Thirty-nine

Obie says, "Maybe the black box will work the next time, Archie." The lights go out and Obie and Archie *make their way out of the place in the darkness.* **What symbolism do you see in the final chapter?**

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Day One

Chapter One

We meet the characters, and learn about the town and its history.

Describe the people and their town.

Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.

Who tells them this and why? What does it tell us? Note historical time period.

Scout's account of Boo comes from Jem who got it from Miss Stephanie.

What does Miss Stephanie say about Boo? *Sheriff hadn't the heart to put him in jail alongside Negroes, so Boo was locked in the courthouse basement. He was brought home so he wouldn't die of mold, and Jem thinks chained to the bed. Atticus says there are other ways of making people into ghosts.*

Characters

Scout

Jem

Dill

Atticus

Aunt Alexandra

Calpurnia

Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose

Miss Rachael

Mr. Radley

Nathan Radley

Boo Radley

The Cunninghams

Stephanie Crawford

Vocabulary

taciturn

imprudent

economy

frugality

repertoire

vapid

malevolent

flivver

meditatively

Chapter Two

Scout goes to school for the first time.

Describe Scout's experience with Miss Caroline.

Scout says, "Jem, that damn lady says Atticus' been teaching me to read and for him to stop it."

What is the worst school experience you can remember?

We meet Walter Cunningham who comes from a proud but poor family.

We learn the crash has hit the Cunninghams hard.

What is the Dewey Decimal System? Is this a real educational trend? Do you see any trends in education?

Characters

Miss Caroline

Walter Cunningham

Vocabulary

assurance

sufficiently

WPA

entailment

sojourn

Chapter Three

Jem invites Walter to dinner.

Calpurnia teaches Scout some manners.

Burrus Ewell has cooties.

Atticus handles Walter's visit, Scout's problems at school, and Jem's decision to stay in the treehouse.

What do we learn about Atticus in this chapter?

Characters

Burrus Ewell

Vocabulary

boastful

dispensation

erratic

tranquility

resentments

concessions

disapprobation

Day Two

Prereading

Notice what the children play, who suggests it, and how each reacts.

Take some notes on the characters and their traits of maturity, responsibility, morality, and powers of observation.

Chapter Four

Scout finds chewing gum in the Radley tree.

Later Jem and Scout find Indian-head pennies.

Jem explains his superstitions about Hot Steams.

Dill suggests they make up plays about the Radleys.

Scout hears laughing when she accidentally rolls into the Radley yard.

Vocabulary

auspicious

meddling

transparent

evasion

Chapter Five

Why does Scout become close to Miss Maudie? Jem and Dill exclude Scout much of the time.

What might Miss Maudie mean when she tells Scout, “*sometimes the Bible in hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of— oh, of your father*”?

Miss Maudie puts Miss Stephanie in her place regarding Boo. “*I said what did you do, Stephanie, move over in the bed and make room for him?*”

Why would she say such a thing to a young child?

Maudie says “*Atticus is the same in his house as he is on the public streets.*”

Is this a good trait? Why or why not?

The boys decide to send a note asking Boo to come out.

Atticus tricks Jem into admitting what they were playing.

Characters

Maudie Atkinson

Uncle Jack Finch

Vocabulary

aloof

foolhardy

benign

cordiality

benevolence

inquisitive

peculiar

asinine

edification

Chapter Six

The children try to look in the Radley house and Nathan Radley fires a shot at a “nigger.”

Jem gets caught on the fence and loses his pants and returns to retrieve them.

What is the affect of this passage? Are Negroes as scary and mysterious to Scout as Boo?

“Every night-sound I heard from my cot on the back porch was magnified three-fold: every scratch of feet on gravel was Boo Radley seeking revenge, every passing Negro laughing in the night was Boo Radley loose and after us; insects splashing against the screen were Boo Radley’s insane fingers picking the wire to pieces; the chinaberry trees were malignant, hovering, alive.”

Scout can’t understand Jem’s insistence on retrieving the pants. She says, *“It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company.”*

Scout can understand trying to avoid a lickin’ but not Jem’s fear he will look bad to Atticus.

Characters

Mr. Avery

Chapter Seven

Jem is moody and Scout tries to *“climb into Jem’s skin and walk around in it.”*

This theme occurs several times in the novel. Sometimes the reference is to skin, other times it is to shoes. Does it make any difference? Remember Walter Cunningham had no shoes in school.

Jem and Scout find a ball of twine in the tree and wait three days to see if it is claimed.

Later they find carved soap figures, chewing gum, a spelling medal, and a broken watch, with knife and chain.

Jem and Scout prepare a letter but Mr. Radley has cemented the tree closed.

What do you think is troubling Jem? Notice he is upset before discovering the tree is sealed.

Vocabulary

baffled

ascertaining

Day Three

Pre-reading

Can you think of a time when you did something that you didn't want to because you felt you had to do it?

Can you think of any examples from history?

What reasons compel people to action?

Is there any cause you would fight for? Die for?

Chapter Eight

It snows. **Who is blamed for this strange occurrence and why?** Mr. Avery said bad children make the seasons change.

Jem and Scout borrow Miss Maudie's snow to cover their "nigger" snowman that looks like Mr. Avery.

Discuss the symbolism of this snowman.

Miss Maudie's house burns and Atticus tells the children it isn't time to worry yet. Watch to see when he repeats this advice.

The children stand by the Radley house. Someone puts a blanket on Scout.

Vocabulary

unfathomable

aberrations

Appomattox

cordial

Chapter Nine

Cecil Jacobs teases Scout because her father is defending a Negro.

Explain why Atticus feels he must take the Robinson case? Is he convincing?

Is he right that even though he has no chance of winning he must still try?

Scout walks away from Cecil's taunts out of respect for Atticus's request.

What do we learn about the personalities of Uncle Jack and Aunt Alexandra?

Scout is cursing. *"I was proceeding on the dim theory, aside from the innate attractiveness of such words, that if Atticus discovered I had picked them up at school he wouldn't make me go."*

Jem and Scout get air rifles for Christmas. They travel to Finch's Landing for the holidays.

Cousin Francis calls Dill a stray dog and Atticus a nigger-lover. Caught fighting, Francis says Scout called him a whore-lady. Later Uncle Jack avoids Scout's question about the term.

Is Atticus consistent in his discipline? Why does he tolerate Scout's swearing but not her fighting?

Atticus says, "Bad language is a stage...Hotheadedness isn't."

Atticus and Jack discuss raising children and the upcoming trial, all within Scout's ear shot.

What is Maycomb's usual disease? (reasonable people go stark raving mad when anything involving a Negro comes up)

Vocabulary

Missouri Compromise

ingenuous

lineaments

harbored

fluently

provocation

inevitable

guilelessness

fanatical

influence

remorseful

Day Four

Pre-reading

What makes a good parent? If you could pick your parents, who would you pick and why? Is there anything about your parents that makes you especially proud (or embarrassed)? Do they have any special talents? Do you?

In this chapter Atticus tells Jem it is a sin to do something. Guess what that sin might be. Scout hears this and decides to check the information with someone. Who do you think she asks?

Chapter Ten

Atticus tells Jem he may shoot bluejays, "*But remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.*"

"That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it."

Scout laments that her father is old and can't do anything.

Jem notices a strange acting dog. Sheriff Heck Tate and Atticus must stop it from entering the Radley yard. Tate asks Atticus to take the shot. The dog is killed with one shot.

Miss Stephanie worries that maybe the dog wasn't mad and what owner Harry Johnson will think.

Miss Maudie explains One-Shot Finch may have given up shooting because he had an unfair advantage. She says "*People in their right minds never take pride in their talents.*" **Do you agree?**

Jem tells Scout to keep quiet about Atticus's special skill. He says he wouldn't care if he couldn't do anything. "*Atticus is a gentleman, just like me!*"

Characters

Tim Johnson (mad dog)

Vocabulary

articulate

inconspicuous

complimentary

rudiments

Chapter Eleven

We learn more about Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose. Jem and Scout hate her but are told to be nice. When Atticus greets Mrs. Dubose and lifts Scout to his shoulders in her presence, Scout thinks Atticus is "*the bravest man who ever lived.*"

Jem is able to ignore Mrs. Dubose taunts until she insults Atticus. Jem buys a steam engine for himself and a baton for Scout. He beats Mrs. Dubose plants with the baton.

Atticus sends Jem to apologize. Scout hates him for that. **Does she really hate him? Do you every hate your parents for doing what they think is right?**

Jem is to read to Mrs. Dubose for a month. He said it's creepy inside and Atticus tells him to pretend he is inside the Radley house. **How smart is Atticus?** Scout and Atticus talk about name calling. Mrs. Dubose dies, free of her morphine addiction, and leaves Jem a camellia flower. Atticus said she had real courage.

Vocabulary

passe

CSA (pistol)

ruthless

umbrage

rectitude

gruff

palliation

Post Reading

Read aloud

“Atticus,” I said one evening, “what exactly is a nigger-lover?”

Atticus’s face was grave. “Has somebody been calling you that?”

“No sir, Mrs. Dubose calls you that. She warms up every afternoon calling you that.

Francis called me that last Christmas, that’s where I first heard it.”

“Is that the reason you mumped on him?” asked Atticus.

“Yes sir...”

“Then why are you asking me what it means?”

I tried to explain to Atticus that it wasn’t so much what Francis said that had infuriated me as the way he had said it. “It was like he’d said snot-nose or something’.”

“Scout,” said Atticus, “nigger-lover is just one of those terms that don’t mean anything – like snot-nose. It’s hard to explain – ignorant, trashy people use it when they think soembody’s favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It’s slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody.”

“You aren’t really a nigger-lover, then, are you?”

“I certainly am. I do my best to love everybody...I’m hard put, sometimes-baby, it’s never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name. It just shows you how poor that person is, it doesn’t hurt you. So don’t let Mrs. Dubose get you down. She has enough troubles of her own.”

Discuss name-calling. Do some role playing.

What name-calling drove Jerry to violence in The Chocolate War?

Was his response understandable, reasonable, realistic?

Did he not know the lesson Atticus is trying to teach Scout? Or is Atticus wrong?

Are there times when a response is justified?

What is real courage?

Did Jerry have real courage?

Does it take real courage to respond, or not respond to the remarks and actions of others? How do you know?

Do you feel differently about Mrs. Dubose now that you know her secret?

Why does this mark the end of Part One?

TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD : PART TWO

Day Five

Pre-reading

Think about different groups you belong to or interact with. Do you behave differently with different groups of people? Why? Isn't that being phony?

Does Atticus ever behave differently? (Think about things he says to Jack and Miss Maudie)

As you read the next chapters, pay attention to the groups and how people fit in, stand out, or are left out.

Chapter Twelve

Jem and Scout go to church with Calpurnia. **How are the children received? Describe the church service?** Zeebo reads the hymns for the congregation.

Scout learns Helen Robinson is having trouble finding work and she asks Cal what crime Tom Robinson committed.

What is different about Calpurnia in this setting? How does she explain the difference to Scout? Aunt Alexandra arrives.

Characters

Zeebo

Reverend Sykes

Helen Robinson

Vocabulary

inconsistent

habiliments

Chapter Thirteen

When Atticus asks Scout how she would like Aunt Alexandra to come live with them she replies she would like it very much, "*which was a lie, but one must lie under certain circumstances and at all time when one can't do anything about them.* **Is this mature or childish? What would Jem have said?**

What is Aunt Alexandra's definition of Fine Folks?

Atticus talks to the children about their family heritage. **How do Atticus and Scout feel about this talk?** Atticus is uncomfortable and Scout says "*This was not my father. My father never thought these thoughts. My father never spoke so. Aunt Alexandra had put him up to this, somehow.*"

What do you make of the last paragraph of the chapter? (Atticus jokes that maybe he is crazy like Cousin Joshua. Scout says, "*I know now what he was trying to do, but Atticus was only a man. It takes a woman to do that kind of work.*")

Family is the one group which we belong to not by choice. Is there someone in your family who tries to shape the image of this group?

Characters

Lily Brooke

Cousin Joshua

Vocabulary

influence

changelings

curtness

Chapter Fourteen

Scout asks Atticus what rape is, and he learns the children went with Cal to her church.

Aunt Alexandra forbids Scout from visiting at Cal's. Atticus and his sister argue over Cal's role.

Jem warns Scout not to aggravate Aunt and Atticus. The children fight and are sent to their rooms and discover Dill, who has run away from home. Scout says Jem "*broke the remaining code of our childhood.*" What did he do? He told Atticus about Dill.

Why does Dill run from home and what does he propose to Scout? Dill is ignored and says he and Scout should have a baby.

Dill speculates why Boo Radley has never run away. "*Maybe he doesn't have anywhere to run off to...*"

Day Six

Pre-reading

Tensions over the upcoming trial are going to build. But how bad can it get? Blacks are no longer slaves. This is the 1930's. What about now? Could a trial like this cause a stir today?

Chapter Fifteen

Several men from town, including Link Deas, speak to Atticus as Tom Robinson is about to be transferred to the local jail. Jem fears for Atticus's safety. Scout sees Heck Tate and Mr. Underwood at church which is unusual. Scout, Jem, and Dill sneak to town and find Atticus in front of the jail.

How is the tense situation diffused? Scout speaks to Mr. Cunningham, similar to the Klan incident with Sam Levy.

Mr. Underwood was upstairs at the jail with a shotgun.

Characters

Braxton Underwood

Vocabulary

placid

peculiarities

aggregation

impassive

Chapter Sixteen

We learn Underwood despises Negroes.

Atticus says, "*you children last night made Walter Cunningham stand in my shoes for a minute. That was enough.*"

The town flocks to the courthouse for the start of the trial.

What do we know and hear about Dolphus Raymond? He drinks from a brown paper bag and lives with Negroes.

The children learn Atticus was appointed to defend Tom Robinson.

Reverend Sykes finds seats in the Negro gallery for the children.

Characters

Dolphus Raymond

X. Billups

Tensaw Jones

Emily Davis

Judge Taylor

Vocabulary

profane

Prohibition

William Jennings Bryan

academic

Day Seven

Pre-reading

Discuss what the class knows about court proceedings.

Chapter Seventeen

Sheriff Tate testifies about Miss Ewell's injuries, including a black right eye. Bob Ewell takes the stand and is warned against any "*audibly obscene speculations.*" **Are the court proceeding fair to everyone?**

"Mr. Ewell reminded me of a deaf-mute. I was sure he had never heard the words Judge Taylor directed at him- his mouth struggled silently with them- but their import registered on his face."

Atticus has Ewell write his name to demonstrate that he is left-handed.

Jem says, "We've got him." Scout didn't think so.

Characters

Mr. Gilmer

Robert E. Lee Ewell

Mayella Ewell

Vocabulary

scrutiny

amiably

corroborating

indigenous

acrimonious

employ

dictum

mortally

haughty

tenet

complacently

ambidextrous

Chapter Eighteen

Mayella takes the stand. She is scared of Atticus.

What do we learn of Mayella's life? She is unable to answer the question "Who are your friends?"

Mayella says she asked Tom to chop up a chiffarobe for her.

Tom stands to be identified and Scout sees his left arm is short and crippled.

What doesn't Scout understand about the testimony from Mayella?

Vocabulary

mollified

stealthy

tedious

browbeating

distilled

Chapter Nineteen

Tom Robinson takes the stand. He testifies he passed the Ewell's place each day on his way to work for Link Deas. He says Mayella often had chores for him to do. She does as Atticus once suggested and listens instead of watching him respond to determine if he is telling the truth.

Tom says Mayella asked him to fix the door hinges and that the children were off getting ice cream. He says Mayella kissed him and he tried to get away "without being' ugly to her."

"It occurred to me that in their own way, Tom Robinson's manners were as good as Atticus's. Until my father explained it to me later, I did not understand the subtlety of Tom's predicament: he would not have dared strike a white woman under any circumstances and expect to live long, so he took the first opportunity to run—a sure sign of guilt."

What else could Tom have done?

Link Deas is thrown out of the courtroom for yelling out in support of Tom.

What is the mistake Tom makes on the stand? He says he felt sorry for Mayella.

Dill becomes sick at Mr. Gilmer's treatment of Tom. **Why?**

Why do you think the author chose to have Dill react this way and not Jem or Scout?

Vocabulary

specimen

impudent

Day Eight

Pre-reading

What are the possible outcomes of the trial? What do you think will happen? How will the various characters react?

Chapter Twenty

Dolphus Raymond offers Dill something to settle his stomach. He explains he pretends to drink so people will be more accepting of his lifestyle. He says the children will understand, and of Dill he explains, *“Things haven’t caught up with that one’s instinct yet. Let him get a little older and he won’t get sick and cry.”*

Do students ever pretend to be “badder” than they are? Why?

Atticus takes off his coat and loosened his tie and delivers his closing remarks. He says the courts are the one place where all men should be equal.

Vocabulary

discreet
detachment
temerity
pauper
industrious
integrity

Chapter Twenty-one

Calpurnia comes to court looking for the children. Mr. Underwood points them out in the balcony. Atticus agrees to let the children return after supper. Jem is confident of victory; Reverend Sykes is not.

What does Scout remember as they wait for the verdict? Why?

Scout describes the atmosphere as *“the same as a cold February morning, when the mockingbirds were still, and the carpenters had stopped hammering on Miss Maudie’s new house, and every wood door in the neighborhood was shut as tight as the doors of the Radley Place.”*

How does Scout guess the verdict? The jury doesn’t look at Tom. Tom is found guilty
The Negroes stand as Atticus passes.

Vocabulary

verdict
acquit

Chapter Twenty-two

Jem asks his father how Tom could be found guilty. Atticus responds, *“I don’t know, but they did it. They’ve done it before and they did it tonight and they’ll do it again and when they do it- seems that only children weep.”*

In the morning he tells Jem *“It’s not time to worry yet.”* **When did we hear this before?** Atticus said this when Miss Maudie’s house burned.

Atticus tears up at all the food the Negroes have brought to the house. Miss Maudie talks to Jem and says Atticus was the only man who could keep a jury out that long, a step in the right direction.

Dill says he wants to be a clown when he grows up and laugh at the folks. **What is the significance of his remark?**

The children learn Atticus has been threatened by Ewell.

Day Nine

Pre-reading

A big event like the trial can have an impact on the people that experience it. Who do you think will be most impacted and how?

Chapter Twenty-three

Atticus says to Jem, “*So far nothing in your life has interfered with your reasoning process.*” **What does he mean? What interferes with our reasoning processes?**

Atticus predicts society will pay for the injustices whites have perpetrated on blacks. **Was he right?** (Remember when this book was written.) **What wrongs are we committing now that our children will pay for?**

Atticus tells the children a Cunningham on the jury was in favor of acquittal. Aunt Alexandra says Cunninghams are good folks but not their kind of folks.

Jem tells Scout there are four kind of folks. (Us and neighbors, Cunninghams, Ewells, and Negroes)

Scout says there is just folks. **Why do the children differ in their views?**

Jem concludes Boo Radley wants to stay inside.

Vocabulary

furtive

adamant

vehement

indignant

Chapter Twenty-four

Aunt Alexandra serves the Christian ladies. Miss Maudies puts Mrs. Merriweather in her place. Aunt Alexandra gives Miss Maudie “a look of pure gratitude.”

What is happening in this scene? Why might it be hard to understand?

Atticus comes to get Calpurnia to go with him to Tom’s house to tell Tom’s wife that he has been killed. Scout carries on. “*If Aunty could be a lady at a time like this, so could I.*”

Why does Scout prefer the company of men? Is she right?

Mrs. Merriweather calls the “people up there” hypocrites.” **Who is she referring to? Is she right?**

Chapter Twenty-five

The town learns of Tom’s death. **What is the reaction of many of the townspeople? Why?**

Mr. Underwood writes a bitter editorial that compares it to the “*senseless slaughter of songbirds.*”

Scout realizes “*in the secret courts of men’s hearts Atticus had no case.*”

Chapter Twenty-six

Cecil Jacobs discusses Hitler for his current events article in class. Atticus calls Hitler a maniac.

Scout asks Jem how Miss Gates can “*hate Hitler so bad an’ then turn around and be ugly about folks right at home.*” **Can you think of any current examples of this kind of behavior?**

Jem is furious and says he never wants to hear about the courthouse again.

Atticus said that Jem was trying hard to forget something, but what he was really doing was storing it away for a while, until enough time passed. Then he would be able to think about it and sort things out. When he was able to think about it, Jem would be himself again.

Is Atticus right? Is this how people respond?

Day Ten

Prereading

The trial is over. Tom is dead. What more can happen?

Chapter Twenty-seven

Someone tries to break into Judge Taylor's home. Link Deas hires Helen Robinson and warns Bob Ewell to stay away. Last year's Halloween prank results in a Fall Pageant in which Scout will portray a ham. Atticus and Aunt Alexandra decide to stay home.

Vocabulary

WPA (Works Progress Administration)

harbor

National Recovery Act

Chapter Twenty-eight

Jem walks Scout to the pageant. She hears a "solitary mocker pour out his repertoire." Cecil Jacobs scares his friends. Scout is late to go on stage and Mrs. Merriweather tells her she ruined the pageant.

Judge Taylor seems to have enjoyed himself. **Why do these two react so differently?**

Who do you think responds appropriately?

Scout and Jem wait for everyone to leave and she forgets her shoes.

They are followed and attacked. Scout sees someone carrying Jem.

Aunt Alexandra hands Scout coveralls to put on.

Dr. Reynolds is called to the house and Sheriff Tate is sent to look for the perpetrator.

A country man stands in the corner while Atticus gets chairs for the others.

Tate tells them Ewell is dead with a knife stuck between his ribs.

Vocabulary

blissful

frenzied

climbers

mortification

untrammeled

Chapter Twenty-nine

Aunt Alexandra feels guilty. Sheriff Tate tells her, "*don't fret yourself about anything- why, if we followed our feelings all the time we'd be like cats chasing their tails.*" **Should we follow our feelings? When?**

Scout tells her story. She said someone came to help and point to Boo Radley.

Chapter Thirty

Atticus introduces Arthur Radley. If Atticus could blandly introduce me to Boo Radley at a time like this, well – that was Atticus. Dr. Reynolds asks them to leave Jem's room and Atticus directs them to the porch. Atticus and Tate argue over how to handle Ewell's death. Atticus asks Scout if she can understand that Ewell fell on his knife. She says she agrees with Tate because to say otherwise would be "sort of like shooting a mockingbird." Atticus thanks Radley for his children.

Compare the positions taken by Atticus and Sheriff Tate. What are the pros and cons of each? What do you think really happened? How would you handle the situation?

Chapter Thirty-one

Scout takes Radley to say goodnight to Jem and tells him it's OK to pet Jem's head. Radley asks Scout to walk him home and she does. **What does Scout experience?** She sees things from Boo's perspective.

Discuss this paragraph.

Neighbors bring food with death and flowers with sickness and little things in between. Boo was our neighbor. He gave us two soap dolls, a broken watch and chain, a pair of good-luck pennies, and our lives. But neighbors give in return. We never put back into the tree what we took out of it: we had given him nothing, and it made me sad.

Scout says Atticus was right. *One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them. Just standing on the Radley porch was enough.*

Have you ever walked in another shoes? What did you learn?

Scout explains Jem's book as Atticus puts her to bed. *"He was real nice."*

Atticus responds, *"Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them."*

Vocabulary

amiable

acquiescence

Suggested Activities

The Chocolate War

- ◆ Following Day Three reading:

Examine the importance of character traits and choice in determining the course of events, both in the novel and in our lives.

You may want to consider

Song - Jewel's "Life Uncommon" (Spirit CD, Atlantic Recording Corporation, 1998)

Poem - Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken"

Essay - Henry David Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government"

Art - Andrew Wyeth's "Christina's World"

Jerry is afraid his life will be boring like that of his father's. What does it take to have a special life?

- ◆ Following Day Seven reading:

Jerry relates to the poster he chose to hang in his locker. Chose another character from the novel and decide what items you might find in that person's locker that would be consistent with his character. You may list, draw, or clip pictures. Be prepared to explain or defend your choices. (Grading may be based on effort, creativity, and thoroughness of character examination.)

- ◆ End of Novel

1. Stand Together or Apart

What do groups of characters have in common? Is there anything that makes an individual stand out?

Example: Archie, Obie, Carter

All are members of The Vigils. Only Archie is subject to "the box."

Example: Carter, Jerry, The Goober

All are football players. The Goober decides not to play next year.

2. What does it take to be a good parent?

As a class, create a list of the qualities of a good parent. Save this list to refer to after having read To Kill A Mockingbird.

3. Think about the best way to battle a bully. What did Jerry do? How else might he have handled the situation? List ways to deal with threats and taunts. Save this list to refer to after having read To Kill A Mockingbird.

To Kill A Mockingbird

- ◆ After Day One reading:

Examine the advantages and disadvantages of various points of view

Reenact the scene involving Scout, Walter, and Miss Caroline using dialogue in the text.

Now repeat the scene allowing an omniscient third person narrator to fill in Miss Caroline's thoughts only.

What is the effect? What is the advantage of hearing this story from Scout?

With what problems does the author have to contend with Scout as narrator?

Can you see why Scout's advanced use of language is beneficial?

How would a first person narrator have changed the telling of The Chocolate War?

- ◆ Test students' familiarity with vocabulary words by asking them to match statements to the correct word.

Aunt Alexandra's husband is this

Atticus's first clients –murderers with witnesses

What Atticus practiced his first five years in law

What children create for fun

What their plays became

Boo is described as an evil phantom

This and a prank gets Arthur and others in trouble

Calpurnia at Mr. Radley's death

taciturn

imprudent

economy

repertoire

vapid

malevolent

flivver

meditatively

- ◆ After Day Four reading:

Show the relevance or historical perspective needed to understand the novel by examining current events in light of To Kill A Mockingbird themes and setting.

Support or refute this statement: Race is no longer the divisive issue it was at the time this book was written.

Examples include NAACP threat of economic boycott over Mississippi's use of the confederate battle emblem, stories about the Thomas Jefferson/ Sally Hemmings controversy, etc.

Post Reading activities

◆ Following Day Seven reading:

Refer to the Cast of Characters. Pair a character with another that is most nearly opposite and give specific examples of the differences.

Example:	Miss Maudie - doesn't care about the rules - respects Scout - admires Atticus	Miss Caroline - is very concerned with rules and procedures - sees Scout as immature - disapproves of Atticus' parenting methods
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Post Reading

Read aloud the first two paragraphs of *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

What happened to Jem as a result of the attack?

Who else had a similar condition? Tom Robinson had a crippled arm.

Look again at your good parent qualities list. How many apply to Atticus? Would you revise your list in any way?

Characters in *The Chocolate War* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* face injustice, discrimination, and peer pressure. What is similar or different about the responses we see?

Who stands out among the characters? Why?

Who are the heroes, if any, in each story? _

What lessons are learned in each?

Which story do you prefer....

in terms of

characters

plot

language

setting

story telling technique

What devices used in the novels would work well today? What might be outdated? Should these books be paired together? Why or why not?

Topics for discussion or final essays

Atticus says to Jem, "So far nothing in your life has interfered with your reasoning process."

Do children sometimes reason better than adults? Why? Can you cite examples from both novels?

Imagine Jerry Renault had read *To Kill a Mockingbird* before his experience with the candy sale.

How might his actions have been different?

Atticus defined real courage this way. "It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what."

How does this apply to the novels? Who shows real courage and how?

Atticus discusses the trial verdict. "They've done it before and they did it tonight and they'll do it again and when they do it seems that only children weep."

What does he mean? How does this relate to the quote at the beginning of the novel?

Look again at the list of good parent qualities created at the conclusion of *The Chocolate War*.

Which qualities does Atticus possess?

Would you add new qualities that this character brought to your attention?

- ◆ Look again at the list of ways to handle taunts and threats.

Were any of those methods used in this novel?

Did you learn any better methods from your reading?

- ◆ Pair a character in *The Chocolate War* with a counterpart in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Explain the similarity.

Example:

Jerry and Dill.

“Cruelty sickened Jerry.” Dill becomes ill at Tom Robinson’s trial.

- ◆ Compare and contrast these two statements:

Archie Costello tells Emile,

“If you want to get under a guy’s skin, accuse him of being something he isn’t. Otherwise, you’re only telling him something he knows.”

Atticus Finch tells Scout,

“It’s never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name.”

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