To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapter Questions

Chapter 13

1. Scout and Aunt Alexandra communicate very poorly with each other. Is the fault more with one than the other, or are they equally at fault? Explain your answer.
2. What’s the reason the children are given as to why Aunt Alexandra has come to stay with them? What do you think is the real reason?
3. Atticus says to Scout, “Your aunt’s doing me a favor as well as you all. I can’t stay here all day with you, and the summer’s going to be a hot one.” There’s a double-meaning to this line. Explain.
4. Aunt Alexandra is critical of many of Maycomb’s families. According to Jem, what’s ironic about this?
5. What did Cousin Joshua do and how does he become a wedge between Aunt Alexandra and Atticus?
6. Look at the last short paragraph of the chapter. What was Atticus trying to do? Why is this sort of thing, according to Scout better left to a woman?

Chapter 14

1. How does Aunt Alexandra feel about Calpurnia? Explain why this is “in character” for Aunt Alexandra?
2. Comment on Atticus’ explanation of rape. Why does Atticus explain the crime this way?
3. What does Jem do that, to Scout, symbolizes the end of his childhood?
4. Dill tries to explain to Scout why he did not want to stay with his mother and new stepfather. State his reasons briefly in your own words.
5. Twice now, Scout has considered running away. Dill did, in fact, run away from home. Why, according to Dill, hasn’t Boo Radley ever run away from his terrible home?