

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD MOVIE QUESTIONS

1. Throughout the book, the adult Scout is the narrator. Her voice disappears early in the film. Why do you think the director and scriptwriter did this?
2. As you watch the film, notice that Jem has a more central role performing many of the actions than were allocated to Scout in the book. List two of these events.
3. Because the film's run time is limited, events and characters must be treated differently. There is not the time for all that can be contained in a novel. In the novel three years elapse from beginning to end. In the movie only two years pass. Characters are compressed and events are either skipped or moved.
 - a. List two important characters who do not appear in the film.
 - b. List two significant events that are altered, dropped or moved.
4. The character of Miss Maudie in the film is obviously younger than Miss Maudie in the novel. Do you find this change acceptable? Why or why not? Use her advice to the Finch children coupled with events in the novel and movie to explain your thinking.
5. The author, Harper Lee, is quoted as saying the Gregory Peck is "the perfect embodiment of Atticus Finch." What fatherly qualities does Atticus Finch idealize in the movie and in the novel?
6. What controversial issues is the novel able to portray that are not dealt with in the movie? List one. (If you have difficulty with this concept, think in terms of hints of incest in the relationship between Bob Ewell and his daughter, Mayella, or, the extent of the portrayal of racism and bigotry in the novel.)
7. How do the director and screen writer either get around this issue or touch on it only lightly rather than extensively?
8. Choose a major issue that is not dealt with in the movie but is presented in the novel. Four are listed below (a, b, c, or d). Choose **ONE AND ONLY ONE**. Describe the issue and how Harper Lee presents it in her novel. Explain why you think the issue should have been presented in the movie. Briefly explain in two or three sentences how you would treat the issue in a movie if you were writing the script:
 - a. Think of the struggle between Aunt Alexandra and Atticus for control of children's upbringing. What is important to Aunt Alexandra? In contrast what is important to Atticus? Aunt Alexandra never appears in the film.
 - b. Consider the social and economic differences between the Finch, the Cunningham and Ewell families. What is significant? How is the shown in the novel? What aspects of this issue are NOT shown in the movie?
 - c. Education as presented humorously in the opening chapters of the novel. There are no black students. While this disparity is not mentioned, what is the impact on Maycomb's black community? (Think of the church scene.)
 - d. Much of the novel shows Scout "coming of age" or growing out of her "tomboy" manner and becoming a "lady." The movie's plot, however, centers on the trial and focuses a court room drama. Thus the issue of feminism and women's roles in society are not presented. What issues would you raise where women are concerned? How would you show them? Which characters would you use to accomplish this?