Chapter 1:

Explain the significance of the following quote:

- “The misery of that house began many years before Jem and I were born. The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a predilection unforgivable in Maycomb.” (pg. 11)

Why is it so significant that Harper Lee mention that the Radleys have segregated not because of law or by force, but rather by choice? Explain.

Chapter 2:

Explain the quote on page 23: “Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.” Explain this concept fully.

What do you learn about Miss Caroline’s history in Chapter 2? (Don’t forget pg. 21) How does this information impact her interaction between herself and the students? Give specific examples. Explain fully.

Chapter 3:

Why do you think Miss Caroline neglected to scold Burris Ewell (pg. 37) but she whipped Scout (Jean Louise) with no hesitation? Explain.

Explain the following quote on page 41 and describe what lesson Atticus is trying to teach Scout.

“Mr. Ewell shouldn’t do that.”

“Of course he shouldn’t but he’ll never change his ways. Are you going to take out your disapproval on his children?”
Chapter 4:

Infer why it is so important that Scout, Jem and Dill each prove they are unafraid of the Radley Place. Are their motives the same? Explain.

On the last page of the chapter, Jem reveals his view of girls. Explain what he thinks of girls in your own words, and make a prediction of whether his view of girls is foreshadowing for the way women are viewed as the book continues.

Chapter 5:

How has the growing closeness of Jem and Dill affected the actions of Scout in Chapter 5? Explain how she copes with the change.

Explain the reaction of Atticus when he discovers Jem and Dill’s plan to sneak a letter to Arthur (Boo) Radley, encouraging him to come outside.

Chapter 6:

Why do you think Scout, Jem and Dill decided to cross the fence into the Radley place in this chapter? How does the timing of this event connect to the timeline of the book?

Chapter 7:

What do you think Jem wanted to tell Scout on page 82? Explain using textual evidence.

Chapter 8:

Explain the following quote (on page 97 or end of Chapter 8): “Miss Maudie puzzled me. With most of her possessions gone and her beloved yard in shambles, she still took a lively and cordial interest in Jem’s and my affairs.” What does this behavior reveal to you about Miss Maudie’s character? How does she differ from the other adults in the book so far?
Chapter 9:

What are the reasons that Atticus gives Scout for defending Tom Robinson? Explain the following quote along with your answer: (page 101)

“Atticus, are we going to win it?”
“No, honey.”
“Then why -”

Why is Atticus defending a man in a trial even though he already knows he won’t win? What lesson could he possibly be trying to teach his children?

Chapter 10:

Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird? Don’t simply restate the lines of page 119, but rather think about what his explanation means in a broader sense, and what Atticus hopes his advice will teach his children. Explain.

What does Miss Maudie say about Atticus’s character on page 130? How does this commentary contribute to your understanding of why he has tried so hard to hide his marksmanship (shooting) talent from most, especially his children.

Chapter 11:

Why is it significant that as Scout gets older, she is encouraged by Jem to venture out of their neighborhood and into town? Explain using inferences.

Why does Mrs. Dubose’s request for Jem to sit and read to her every day for a month only fully make sense until the reader understands how close to death she was at the time? Explain.

Chapter 12:

What major changes in others does Scout have to cope with in Chapter 12? Give examples in your explanation.

Considering the fact that we have established Maycomb is a very religious town, why are we seeing Scout and Jem attend church for the first time in Chapter 12? Explain.
Chapter 13:

How does Aunt Alexandra solidify her place in the Finch household in Chapter 13? In other words, what does her behavior reveal about her character and how does she impact the lives of Scout and Jem?

Chapter 14:

Why do Atticus and Aunt Alexandra disagree about Scout attending church with Calpurnia? What do their arguments reveal about each character, respectively? Explain.

Chapter 15:

Why are Scout's innocent remarks in front of the mob more compelling than the stern presence of Atticus at the gates of the Maycomb County Jail? Explain how their approaches differed and infer why Scout was able to get the mob to disperse when Atticus could not accomplish the same goal.

Chapter 16:

Why are mobs so dangerous? What does a mob mentality encourage? (Do some research if necessary. I've included one resource below) Describe the mob in Maycomb you read about in Chapter 15 and explain what risks they present to Atticus and his family.

Chapter 17:
Summarize the questions Atticus asks Sheriff Heck Tate, and explain his strategy for asking them for the purposes of Tom Robinson's defense.

Chapter 18:

- Is Mayella Ewell a credible witness? Explain why or why not using specific details.
- In recent times, a female victim's testimony is considered a very convincing argument in a court of law. This book has received a great deal of scrutiny over the years because of the way Atticus challenges the story of Mayella’s assault (beating) and alleged rape. Do you think Atticus behaves in a manner that can be described as insensitive towards Mayella by implying she wasn't raped by Tom Robinson?

Chapter 19:

- In your opinion, do you think Tom Robinson gave the best possible testimony to help his defense? Explain using specific details. Do you think the jury will consider his innocence any more now that he's on the stand? Explain.

Chapter 20:

- What are the main points of Atticus's closing argument? Be specific. Predict whether you think his strategies will successfully convince the jury to find Tom Robinson innocent.
- Why does Dolphus Raymond only PRETEND to be drunk? Summarize AND analyze his explanation.

Chapter 21:
• Why does Atticus agree to allow Scout and Jem to hear the verdict? What might they learn from seeing the conclusion of the trial?
• Why did the entire balcony of black members of the community stand when Atticus left the courtroom? What does this gesture indicate? Explain.

Chapter 22:

What does Atticus mean when he says, “only children weep”? Explain. (pg. 285 or second page of Chapter 22 for purple edition)

Chapter 23:

What is the explanation Atticus gives for why women cannot be members of a jury? Can this be considered another example of a group of people being devalued in a similar way as blacks are considered inferior to whites in Maycomb? Explain.

Chapter 24:

How do Miss Maudie, Aunt Alexandra and Scout handle the news of Tom Robinson’s murder? Explain in detail.

Chapter 25:

Explain the statement, “Tom was tried in the secret courts of men’s hearts.” In what way are hearts like courts? Explain. (pg 323 or last page of Chapter 25 for purple edition)

Chapter 26:
Describe the irony of Miss Gates’s statement, “Over here we don’t believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced.” Explain using details. (pg. 329 or three pages from the end of Chapter 26 in the purple edition)

Chapter 27:

Why was Bob Ewell bothering Hellen Robinson? What motives could he have for his actions? Explain using details.

Chapter 28:

Why did Scout keep repeating her question of whether or not Jem was dead? What does it show you about their relationship? Explain.

Chapter 29:

Sheriff Heck Tate has some strong words about Mr. Ewell on the top of page 361 or the second to last page of the chapter in the purple edition). Explain the following quote in detail and why it is significant coming from someone who is Sheriff.

“Mr. Finch, there’s just some kind of men you have to shoot before you can say hidy to ‘em” (hello). Even then, they ain’t worth the bullet it takes to shoot ‘em. Ewell ‘as one of ‘em.”

Chapter 30:

Why does Mr. Tate claim Bob Ewell killed himself even though that isn’t what really happened? Why does Scout say telling the truth would be “sort of like shootin’ a mockingbird”? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?

Chapter 31:
Explain the following passage on pg. 373 and its significance to the book as a whole.

“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.”