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***To Kill a Mockingbird***

**Chapters 9 & 15**

**Reading Focus Sheet**

**The Trial: People’s Attitudes**

The trial is starting to become an important part of the plot. Record people’s attitudes about the trial and Atticus taking Tom’s case through what others tell Scout and what she observes.

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| --- | --- |
| **Person of Focus** | **Details from Text**  |
| People in Town |  |
| Aunt Alexandra |  |
| Atticus |  |

**Symbolism: The Mockingbird**

From Chapter 10:

 *When he gave us our air-rifles Atticus wouldn’t teach us to shoot. Uncle Jack instructed us in the rudiments thereof; he said Atticus wasn’t interested in guns. Atticus said to Jem one day, “I’d rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you’ll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit ‘em, 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.*

*“Your father’s right,” she said. “Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don’t eat up people’s gardens, don’t nest in corncribs, they don’t do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”*

The mockingbird is a very important symbol in the novel. Explain Atticus and Miss Maudie’s sentiments about mockingbirds in your own words. What does this message mean? How can it apply to life? Use details and explains from your own life or the real world in your explanation.

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**Chapter Summaries**

Record any important information from or questions you have about chapters 10-14.

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**Reading Strategy: Inference**

As you read Chapter 15, record Scout’s observation of events in the first column. In the second column, record what you believe is actually going on.

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| --- | --- |
| **Scout’s Observations** | **My Conclusions** |
|  |  |

Explain the events of Chapter 15 in your own words. What was really going on at the jail? How do you know? Use the evidence from Scout’s observations as well as Atticus and Jem’s reactions to support your conclusions. Remember, Scout as a young narrator does not always understand what is happening.

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