

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Summer School Assignment

## To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

As you read To Kill a Mockingbird, you are to keep a journal of responses to the questions/tasks below. You will need to:

- ✓ keep your journal in a composition notebook
- ✓ label each entry with the journal number and date
- ✓ Neat and organized
- ✓ entries should be in complete sentences and in paragraph form.
- ✓ each paragraph should be at least 8 sentences
- ✓ spelling and Punctuation count
- ✓ **be creative!**

**Journal Entry 1** - Research the author and write the following information: name, birth date, place of birth, awards won, other jobs/careers, other writings (titles and types). Write three (3) interesting facts about the author using complete sentences.

**Journal Entry 2** - The novel is set during the Great Depression in Alabama. Research the time period and list ten (20) facts about this historical event/background, include a picture of a scene from the novel, can be drawn or it can be a printed image from the Internet. You **MUST** write each of the ten (20) historical facts in complete sentences. (Use 2 pages)

**Journal Entry 3** - Identify the **part of speech** and **define** the following twenty (20) words that you will encounter while reading the novel. Then **write an ORIGINAL sentence** using the word. Your sentence **MUST** relate to the novel. Do **NOT** use the sentences from the novel; **make up your own sentences**.

*VOCABULARY WORDS:* piety, concessions, quelling, tacit, vigil, provocation, umbrage, acquiescence, unmitigated, acquit, squalid, enunciated, annals, connived, expunge, tenet, tirade, inordinately, benign

**Journal Entry 4** - In Chapter 1, pp. 5-6/p. 6, the narrator notes, “But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear, but fear itself.” This alludes to another famous quote.

- A) Who in history said, “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself”?
- B) What was the situation in which it was said?
- C) Given what you have learned about this quotation, estimate the year it is in the  
novel.

**Journal Entry 5** - In your own words, what does this quote mean to you? “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself “ (Response is in 5 paragraph form)

**Journal Entry 6** - In Chapter 10, p. 98/p. 130, after Atticus shoots a mad dog, Miss Maudie explains why Atticus, the best shot in the county, had not shot a gun in many years: “I guess he decided he wouldn’t shoot till he had to...” What does Miss Maudie’s remark tell the reader about Atticus? (This is making an inference.) (Response is in 5 paragraph form)

**Journal Entry 7** - In Chapter 11, p. 112/p. 149, Atticus gives his idea of courage: “It’s when you know you’re licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.” Do you agree with this definition of courage? Explain your answer. (Response is in 5 paragraph form)

**Journal Entry 8** - Closely read Chapter 15 and briefly summarize what happens here. The summary should be 3 paragraphs minimum.

**Journal Entry 9** - Summarize Miss Gates’ lecture on democracy in the classroom and compare that to her remark to Miss Crawford outside the courtroom. (Chapter 26) (3 paragraphs minimum)

**Journal Entry 10** - At one point in Chapter 30 (p. 275/p. 369), Atticus “moved with the same slowness that night in front of the jail, when I thought it took him forever to fold his newspaper and toss it into his chair.” Later in this same chapter (p. 276)/p. 370), Atticus “got up and walked across the porch into the shadows” and “his youthful step had returned.” Thoroughly explain this change in Atticus. (1 paragraph)

**Journal Entry 11** - Carefully read Chapter 31. On page 279/p. 374, the narrator notes, “Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them.” What event(s) on that page and on the previous one or two pages leads the narrator to that conclusion? (1 paragraph)

**Journal Entry 12** - In Chapter 31, Scout lists the things Boo has given her and Jem. List those all of the items and explain Scout’s thoughts about Boo’s gifts.

**Journal Entry 13** - In Chapter 31, Scout says of a character in *The Gray Ghost*: “Atticus, he was real nice....” Atticus responds, “Most people are Scout, when you finally see them.” To whom is Atticus referring? Who does Jim discover to be nice after he gets to know him? Explain your answer thoroughly. 3 paragraphs minimum)

**Journal Entry 14:** Create a timeline of at least 15 major events in the novel. Be thorough. Include Chapter and page of event. You have to use two pages and create timeline vertically.

**Journal Entry 15** - Make a chart with numbered, detailed notes about your least favorite character. **Be sure to give specifics details and incidents from the novel to explain your choice; put page number(s) after each detail that shows where you got the information.** You need at least ten (10) details per character.

**Journal Entry 16:** Draw a character sketch about your 2 favorite characters in the story. List at least 5 character traits that he or she possesses.

Character	Trait 1	Evidence
	Trait 2	Evidence
	Trait 3	Evidence

**Journal Entry 17** - Choose one of the following themes and **discuss it as it relates to the novel and life in general**. You must write at least 3 paragraphs (again at least eight sentences or more). Theme Choices: Coming of Age, Bravery vs. Cowardice, Prejudice (race, class, making decision about person before knowing all facts – Choose one of these).

**Journal Entry 18** - For this journal entry you need to illustrate your favorite scene from the book and a paragraph that describes and explains your drawing. Include the chapter and page for your illustration.

**\*\*Please bring the book and completed journal on the first day of school.**

**This is the only required reading book during the summer. All incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (current and new) must read “To Kill a Mockingbird,” complete the Summer Reading Project and study for the “To Kill a Mockingbird” book test.**