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Crisis and Resolution: Chapters 22-28 of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Short Answer Key

1. In Chapter 23, Atticus explains to Scout that the Ewells accused Tom Robinson out of fear and desperation. He emphasizes the importance of understanding others' perspectives, even when their actions seem malicious. This conversation is important because it reinforces the novel's theme of empathy and challenges Scout to see beyond the surface of people's behavior.
2. Aunt Alexandra's tea party in Chapter 24 introduces Scout to the town's social expectations for women and highlights the tension between her tomboyish nature and the traditional roles expected of girls. This event is significant in Scout's character development as it represents her struggle to conform to societal norms while remaining true to herself.
3. In Chapter 25, Miss Maudie provides Scout with a different perspective on the events surrounding Tom Robinson's trial. She offers comfort and understanding, helping Scout make sense of the injustice they have witnessed. Miss Maudie's perspective reinforces the novel's theme of moral decency and gives Scout hope for a better future.
4. Atticus's shooting skill in Chapter 26 is surprising to Jem and Scout because they had never seen him display such expertise. This incident enhances their admiration for their father and showcases his hidden talents. It also serves as a symbol of Atticus's ability to protect and defend his family.
5. Halloween night in Chapter 27 and the subsequent attack in Chapter 28 mark the climax of the novel. Jem and Scout's lives are endangered, and the true identity of their assailant, Bob Ewell, is revealed. These events heighten the suspense and contribute to the novel's themes of courage and moral growth.

