

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The trial of Tom Robinson has a profound impact on the Finch family, especially Jem and Scout. They witness the harsh realities of racial prejudice and injustice, challenging their innocence and forcing them to grapple with complex moral issues. The verdict deeply affects their faith in the justice system and their understanding of the adult world. It is a turning point in their lives, marking the loss of their childhood innocence.
2. The theme of empathy and understanding is central to Atticus's character and the novel as a whole. In Chapter 23, Atticus emphasizes the importance of trying to see the world from others' perspectives, even when their actions seem malicious. This theme plays a critical role in the story's resolution as Scout and Jem learn to apply these principles in their interactions with Boo Radley, ultimately leading to a greater understanding and empathy for him.
3. The rabid dog incident in Chapter 26 serves as a powerful symbol of the moral decay in Maycomb. Atticus's shooting of the dog represents his role as a moral protector and his willingness to confront and eliminate threats to the community. This event also has a significant impact on Jem and Scout, as they witness their father's hidden talent and gain a deeper appreciation for his character.
4. The attack on Jem and Scout in Chapter 28 marks the climax of the novel, creating intense suspense and danger. It contributes to the themes of courage and moral growth as the children face a life-threatening situation and are ultimately saved by Boo Radley. This event also serves as a catalyst for the resolution of the story and the realization of the consequences of the town's racial prejudice and injustice.

