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Adventures and Challenges: Chapters 7-14 of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Short Answer Key

1. The fire at Miss Maudie Atkinson's house in Chapter 8 is significant because Boo Radley emerges to save Scout and Jem. It is the first time they see him in person, and it challenges their previous perceptions of him as a terrifying figure. This event begins to humanize Boo Radley in their eyes, and they start to see him as a protector rather than a threat.
2. Aunt Alexandra's role in the Finch household is to provide guidance and uphold the family's reputation. She brings tension by emphasizing traditional Southern values and trying to mold Scout into a proper young lady, which conflicts with Scout's tomboyish nature and Atticus's more liberal parenting style.
3. The lessons Scout and Jem learn from Mrs. Dubose in Chapter 11 include the importance of courage and dignity in the face of adversity. Despite her illness and addiction, Mrs. Dubose displays immense strength in her battle to overcome her morphine addiction. She teaches the children that real courage is the ability to persevere even when facing great challenges.
4. The Lynch mob situation in Chapter 14 reveals the town's deep-seated racial prejudice, as a group of white men gathers at the jail with the intent of harming Tom Robinson. Scout, Jem, and Dill play a crucial role in diffusing the situation by their innocent presence, reminding the mob of their shared humanity and the injustice of their actions.
5. Calpurnia's church visit is significant for Scout and Jem because it exposes them to the racial segregation and inequality that exist in Maycomb. It helps them understand the challenges faced by the black community and broadens their perspective on the town's racial dynamics.

