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

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The character development of Scout and Jem is notable in these chapters. They begin to see Boo Radley as a more complex and human figure rather than a frightening monster. This change in perception is the result of their growing understanding of the world and their interactions with other characters, such as Mrs. Dubose and Calpurnia. These experiences contribute to their maturation and their ability to see beyond appearances.
2. The mockingbird is a powerful symbol in the novel, representing innocence and moral conscience. In Chapters 10 and 14, Atticus's advice about not killing mockingbirds extends to the idea that it is wrong to harm those who do no harm to others. This concept relates to the novel's themes of empathy and the condemnation of prejudice. Mockingbirds, in the figurative sense, are characters like Boo Radley and Tom Robinson, who are harmed by society despite their innocence.
3. Atticus's decision to defend Tom Robinson in Chapter 9 is significant because it demonstrates his commitment to justice and his belief in the fundamental principles of fairness and equality. This decision sets the stage for the central conflict in the novel and challenges the racial prejudices of the town. It also serves as an important moral lesson for Scout and Jem.
4. Calpurnia plays a vital role as a bridge between the Finch family and the black community. Her character helps the children understand the complexities of racial dynamics in Maycomb. She provides them with valuable lessons about respect and empathy, and her guidance contributes to their growth and moral development. Calpurnia serves as a reminder that racial boundaries can be crossed with understanding and compassion.

