

Determining Theme through Character Study for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Activity One: Characterization through Conflict

Characterization is developed through words, actions, and descriptions. What does a character do, especially when facing a conflict? What does a character say? What do others say about him or her? As you read, highlight text that reveals the character of Atticus. When you finish a passage, complete the activities below each excerpt. A concise summary of each passage should be used to contextualize evidence when writing an analytical essay (In this scene...). This is done for Excerpt 1 as an example.

Excerpt 1 from Chapter 3:

Bit by bit, I told him the day's misfortunes. "—and she said you taught me all wrong, so we can't ever read any more, ever. Please don't send me back please sir."

Atticus stood up and walked to the end of the porch. When he completed his examination of the wisteria vine he strolled back to me.

"First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—"

"Sir?"

"—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

Atticus said I had learned many things today, and Miss Caroline had learned several things herself. She had learned not to hand something to a Cunningham, for one thing, but if Walter and I had put ourselves in her shoes we'd have seen it was an honest mistake on her part. We could not expect her to learn all Maycomb's ways in one day, and we could not hold her responsible when she knew no better."

... "But if I keep on goin' to school, we can't ever read any more. . . ."

"That's really bothering you, isn't it?"

"Yes sir."

When Atticus looked down at me I saw the expression on his face that always made me expect something. "Do you know what a compromise is?" he asked.

"Bending the law?"

"No, an agreement reached by mutual concessions. It works this way," he said. "If you'll concede the necessity of going to school, we'll go on reading every night just as we always have. Is it a bargain?"

"Yes sir!"

"We'll consider it sealed without the usual formality," Atticus said, when he saw me preparing to spit.

As I opened the front screen door Atticus said, "By the way, Scout, you'd better not say anything at school about our agreement."

"Why not?"

"I'm afraid our activities would be received with considerable disapprobation by the more learned authorities."

Jem and I were accustomed to our father's last-will-and-testament diction, and we were at all times free to interrupt Atticus for a translation when it was beyond our understanding.

A. is patient and understanding

A. is tolerant and fair-minded. Model for Scout

Atticus understands Scout's perspective and listens to her. He is willing to compromise so that Scout can continue to read.

→ would have behaved more justly if she'd considered

Atticus is teaching Scout that she shouldn't judge someone until she's tried to consider his/her P.O.V.

He comes up with a logical solution, but Scout can't broadcast it to her teacher. Not hypocritical

Context
+
Summary
of
Passage

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene Atticus listens carefully to Scout's concerns and eases her fears by suggesting a compromise about reading and going to school.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Person vs. Society ← { Atticus is confronting the rules that govern Scout @ School.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus is logical and fair minded. He considers Scout's P.O.V. and encourages Scout to consider other people's P.O.V. as well. As a result he reaches a compromise.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: **Atticus is**

Atticus is patient and understanding. He is logical and fair-minded. He is also not hypocritical - he shows Scout the same courtesy that he expects her to show others. by considering her P.O.V. and reaching a compromise.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus's response demonstrates that justice is only brought about through patience, understanding, and -sometimes- compromise.

You can bring about justice by considering another person's perspective.

Excerpt 2 from Chapter 9 → As opposed to the to, Atticus does not see this as a big deal -

Atticus sighed. "I'm simply defending a Negro—his name's Tom Robinson. He lives in that little settlement beyond the town dump. He's a member of Calpurnia's church, and Cal knows his family well. She says they're clean-living folks. Scout, you aren't old enough to understand some things yet, but there's been some high talk around town to the effect that I shouldn't do much about defending this man. It's a peculiar case—it won't come to trial until summer session. John Taylor was kind enough to give us a postponement . . ."

"If you shouldn't be defendin' him, then why are you doin' it?"

"For a number of reasons," said Atticus. "The main one is, if I didn't I couldn't hold up my head in town, I couldn't represent this county in the legislature, I couldn't even tell you or Jem not to do something again."

"You mean if you didn't defend that man, Jem and me wouldn't have to mind you any more?"

"That's about right."

"Why?"

"Because I could never ask you to mind me again. Scout, simply by the nature of the work, every lawyer gets at least one case in his lifetime that affects him personally. This one's mine, I guess. You might hear some ugly talk about it at school, but do one thing for me if you will: you just hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat. Try fighting with your head for a change . . . it's a good one, even if it does resist learning."

"Atticus, are we going to win it?"

"No, honey."

"Then why—"

"Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win," Atticus said. perseverance & determination.

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene Atticus explains to Scout

why he will defend Tom Robinson and he encourages her to maintain her composure when people begin talking about the case at school.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Person v. society - Atticus discusses the way in which he must defend Tom as a matter of moral integrity even though people (society) don't believe he should.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus deals with the conflict reasonably. He believes Tom - as anybody else - is entitled to a fair trial, so he decides to defend him as a matter of personal integrity.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is

Atticus is a man of morals and integrity and will not sacrifice his moral code in favor of popular opinion.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus reveals that social justice requires people to stand up for what's right even though society may disagree

tries to simplify things for Scout

wants Scout to keep her integrity as well.

he is "simply" defending a man - doing his job.
moral vs. social code.
Atticus must do what's right over what's socially acceptable in order to maintain his integrity.

Excerpt 3 from Chapter 10

Atticus was feeble; he was nearly fifty. When Jem and I asked him why he was so old, he said he got started late, which we felt reflected upon his abilities and manliness. He was much older than the parents of our school contemporaries, and there was nothing Jem or I could say about him when our classmates said, "My father—"

Jem was football crazy. Atticus was never too tired to play keep-away, but when Jem wanted to tackle him Atticus would say, "I'm too old for that, son." *ll open about his age.*

Our father didn't do anything. He worked in an office, not in a drugstore. Atticus did not drive a dump-truck for the county, he was not the sheriff, and he did not farm, work in a garage, or do anything that could possibly arouse the admiration of anyone.

Besides that, he wore glasses. He was nearly blind in his left eye, and said left eyes were the tribal curse of the Finches. Whenever he wanted to see something well, he turned his head and looked from his right eye.

He did not do the things our schoolmates' fathers did: he never went hunting, he did not play poker or fish or drink or smoke. He sat in the living room and read.

With these attributes, however, he would not remain as inconspicuous as we wished him to: that year, the school buzzed with talk about him defending Tom Robinson, none of which was complimentary.

When he gave us our air-rifles Atticus wouldn't teach us to shoot. Uncle Jack instructed us in the rudiments thereof; he said Atticus wasn't interested in guns. Atticus said to Jem one day, "I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something . . . *Miss Maudie goes*

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene ** on to explain on p. 119 **

Jem and Scott talk about how Atticus isn't like other fathers. They specifically discuss the fact that Atticus does not shoot or teach his children how to shoot.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

person vs. society → Atticus is not like other fathers and personally goes against the social norms of Maycomb. He also goes against the norms professionally through his defense of Tom Robinson.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

He's direct about his position, is transparent, and does not change his ways to appease his children or the town. He does not condone his children's actions, but he does understand that they will behave like other children and set appropriate boundaries.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is

comfortable in his own skin. He is unlike other father in Maycomb in age, occupation and principle. He is non-judgmental of his children, but he doesn't condone violent action.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Through the symbol of the Mockingbird - an innocence bird - Atticus suggests it's a sin to victimize the innocent; innocence ought to be protected in order to maintain justice.

*irony - Atticus's profession puts him in a position to uphold justice!
A. does not condone violence esp. against innocence creatures.*

A. goes against social norms... personally & professionally

respects individual's right.

Excerpt 4 from Chapter 10

I thought mad dogs foamed at the mouth, galloped, leaped and lunged at throats, and I thought they did it in August. Had Tim Johnson behaved thus, I would have been less frightened. *|| odd behavior and occurrence for this time of the year.*

Nothing is more deadly than a deserted, waiting street. The trees were still, the mockingbirds were silent, the carpenters at Miss Maudie's house had vanished. I heard Mr. Tate sniff, then blow his nose. I saw him shift his gun to the crook of his arm. I saw Miss Stephanie Crawford's face framed in the glass window of her front door. Miss Maudie appeared and stood beside her. Atticus put his foot on the rung of a chair and rubbed his hand slowly down the side of his thigh. *Foreshadows disruption to the natural order of things in Maycomb.*

"There he is," he said softly.

Tim Johnson came into sight, walking dazedly in the inner rim of the curve parallel to the Radley house. *always in background*

"Look at him," whispered Jem. "Mr. Heck said they walked in a straight line. He can't even stay in the road."...

...Tim Johnson reached the side street that ran in front of the Radley Place, and what remained of his poor mind made him pause and seem to consider which road he would take. He made a few hesitant steps and stopped in front of the Radley gate; then he tried to turn around, but was having difficulty.

Atticus said, "He's within range, Heck. You better get him before he goes down the side street—Lord knows who's around the corner. Go inside, Cal."

Calpurnia opened the screen door, latched it behind her, then unlatched it and held onto the hook. She tried to block Jem and me with her body, but we looked out from beneath her arms.

"Take him, Mr. Finch." Mr. Tate handed the rifle to Atticus; Jem and I nearly fainted.

"Don't waste time, Heck," said Atticus. "Go on."

"Mr. Finch, this is a one-shot job."

Atticus shook his head vehemently: "Don't just stand there, Heck! He won't wait all day for you—"

"For God's sake, Mr. Finch, look where he is! Miss and you'll go straight into the Radley house! I can't shoot that well, and you know it!"

"I haven't shot a gun in thirty years—"

Mr. Tate almost threw the rifle at Atticus. "I'd feel mighty comfortable if you did now," he said.

In a fog, Jem and I watched our father take the gun and walk out into the middle of the street. He walked quickly, but I thought he moved like an underwater swimmer: time had slowed to a nauseating crawl. *- trusts A. to do the right thing.*

When Atticus raised his glasses Calpurnia murmured, "Sweet Jesus help him," and put her hands to her cheeks.

Atticus pushed his glasses to his forehead; they slipped down, and he dropped them in the street. In the silence, I heard them crack. Atticus rubbed his eyes and chin; we saw him blink hard.

In front of the Radley gate, Tim Johnson had made up what was left of his mind. He had finally turned himself around, to pursue his original course up our street. He made two steps forward, then stopped and raised his head. We saw his body go rigid.

With movements so swift they seemed simultaneous, Atticus's hand yanked a ball-tipped lever as he brought the gun to his shoulder.

The rifle cracked. Tim Johnson leaped, flopped over and crumpled on the sidewalk in a brown-and-white heap. He didn't know what hit him . . .

Jem became vaguely articulate: "'d you see him, Scout? 'd you did him just standin' there? . . . 'n' all of

a sudden he just relaxed all over, an' it looked like that gun was a part of him. . . an' he did it so quick, like. . . I hafta aim for ten minutes 'fore I can hit somethin' . . ."

Miss Maudie grinned wickedly. "Well now, Miss Jean Louise," she said, "still think your father can't do anything?"

"Nome," I said meekly.

"Forgot to tell you the other day that besides playing the Jew's Harp, Atticus Finch was the deadeest shot in Maycomb County in his time."

* See also p. 130 Miss Maudie explains to Scout why Atticus doesn't like to shoot.

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene

Atticus shoots the rabid dog.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus v. Heck - Heck wants A. to shoot, but A. resists.
 Atticus v. Tim Johnson (the rabid dog) - A. must shoot dog
 Atticus v. self - A. has to choose between his distaste for violence and saving the town.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus decided to shoot Tim Johnson in order to save the town rather than avoid violence.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is calm in the face of conflict.

He dislikes violence (shooting) but does shoot Tim Johnson in order to protect the town.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus suggests that violence should be used only as a last resort and in order to protect/defend others.

He also suggest that in order to do what's right, to protect others, one must sometimes do something that one doesn't want to do.

* Parallel to Boo killing Bob Ewell

Excerpt 5 from Chapter 11

Atticus pushed my head under his chin. "It's not time to worry yet," he said. "I never thought Jem'd be the one to lose his head over this—thought I'd have more trouble with you." *A. protects his children*

I said I didn't see why we had to keep our heads anyway, that nobody I knew at school had to keep his head about anything.

"Scout," said Atticus, "when summer comes you'll have to keep your head about far worse things. It's not fair for you and Jem, I know that, but sometimes we have to make the best of things, and the way we conduct ourselves when the chips are down—well, all I can say is, when you and Jem are grown, maybe you'll look back on this with some compassion and some feeling that I didn't let you down. This case, Tom Robinson's case, is something that goes to the essence of a man's conscience—Scout, I couldn't go to church and worship God if I didn't try to help that man." *moral obligation / duty to do what's right.*

"Atticus, you must be wrong. . . ."

"How's that?"

"Well, most folks seem to think they're right and you're wrong. . . ." *person v. society, respects others' opinion*

"They're certainly entitled to think that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions," said Atticus, "but before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." *even though he disagrees.*

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene,

Atticus prepares Scout for what's to come once the Tom Robinson trial is underway. He encourages her to stay strong and keep her head about her and shows that he plans to do the same—to defend Tom b/c it's the right thing to do.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus v. society — "well, most folks seem to think they're right and you're wrong." Atticus goes against the town to defend Tom. A. v. self — @ odds with himself over how trial will affect his children.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus deals with the conflict of defending Tom despite popular opinion by doing what his conscience tells him to do and by preparing his children for the consequences of his actions.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: **Atticus is** *ethical, fair-minded, concerned for his children, and perseverant.*

He stands strong in the face of criticism and takes time to ease Scout's mind while also being honest about future conflict she may face.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Again Atticus's response to the conflict reveals that one must do what's morally right and must persevere in order to bring about justice. He also shows that social justice is for everyone regardless of race.

Excerpt 6 from Chapter 15

Dill and I took another window. A crowd of men was standing around Atticus. They all seemed to be talking at once.

"... movin' him to the county jail tomorrow," Mr. Tate was saying, "I don't look for any trouble, but I can't guarantee there won't be any. . . ."

"Don't be foolish, Heck," Atticus said. "This is Maycomb."

"... said I was just uneasy."

"Heck, we've gotten one postponement of this case just to make sure there's nothing to be uneasy about. This is Saturday," Atticus said. "Trial'll probably be Monday. You can keep him one night, can't you? I don't think anybody in Maycomb'll begrudge me a client, with times this hard."

There was a murmur of glee that died suddenly when Mr. Link Deas said, "Nobody around here's up to anything, it's that Old Sarum bunch I'm worried about . . . can't you get a—what is it, Heck?"

"Change of venue," said Mr. Tate. "Not much point in that, now is it?"

Atticus said something inaudible. I turned to Jem, who waved me to silence.

"—besides," Atticus was saying, "you're not scared of that crowd, are you?"

"... know how they do when they get shinnied up."

"They don't usually drink on Sunday, they go to church most of the day . . ." Atticus said.

"This is a special occasion, though . . ." someone said.

They murmured and buzzed until Aunty said if Jem didn't turn on the living room lights he would disgrace the family. Jem didn't hear her.

"—don't see why you touched it in the first place," Mr. Link Deas was saying. "You've got everything to lose from this, Atticus. I mean everything."

"Do you really think so?" → Atticus indirectly disagrees w/ Link. He knows he has a lot to lose but not for the same reasons as Link thinks

This was Atticus's dangerous question. "Do you really think you want to move there, Scout?" Bam, bam, bam, and the checkerboard was swept clean of my men. "Do you really think that, son? Then read this." Jem would struggle the rest of an evening through the speeches of Henry W. Grady.

"Link, that boy might go to the chair, but he's not going till the truth's told." Atticus's voice was even.

"And you know what the truth is." Atticus will persevere and protect Tom in order to expose the truth—that Tom is innocent.

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene Atticus's friends express their concerns for the safety of Atticus and Tom pending the trial. Allusion - helped South reunite w/ the North after civil war. Emphasis on unity in the face of conflict.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus v. society → Atticus's friends discuss the dangers Tom and he might face at the hands of a lynch mob.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus responds with humor and does his best to assuage their fears, he also makes it clear that he intends to stay the course despite the odds in order to expose the truth of Tom's innocence.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is perseverant, calm in the face of conflict, and honest.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice? Atticus is determined to expose the truth of Tom's innocence despite potential threats, showing that honesty, perseverance, and sacrifice are needed to uphold justice for Tom. us online at www.nms.org.

Excerpt 7 from Chapter 15

Atticus is willing to stand alone in defense of Tom

As we walked up the sidewalk, we saw a solitary light burning in the distance. "That's funny," said Jem, "jail doesn't have an outside light."

"Looks like it's over the door," said Dill.

A long extension cord ran between the bars of a second-floor window and down the side of the building. In the light from its bare bulb, Atticus was sitting propped against the front door. He was sitting in one of his office chairs, and he was reading, oblivious of the nightbugs dancing over his head.

composed

I made to run, but Jem caught me. "Don't go to him," he said, "he might not like it. He's all right, let's go home. I just wanted to see where he was."

We were taking a short cut across the square when four dusty cars came in from the Meridian highway, moving slowly in a line. They went around the square, passed the bank building, and stopped in front of the jail.

Nobody got out. We saw Atticus look up from his newspaper. He closed it, folded it deliberately, and dropped it in his lap, and pushed his hat to the back of his head. He seemed to be expecting them.

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene ...

Jem and Scout (and Dill) observe Atticus as he protects Tom and awaits a confrontation with the mob.

image suggest
Atticus is the light in the darkness.
He will bring light to Tom's situation even if he must do it alone.
calmly addresses the aggressive mob
meets violence w/ reason and non-violence.
He shows that he is brave and is willing to stand up against them.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus vs. Society — Atticus prepares to confront a lynch mob that comes for Tom

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus deals with the conflict by calmly setting himself up to guard the jail. He remains composed even as he confronts people who intend to do violence.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is

ethical, self-sacrificing, brave, composed, non-violent.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus shows that bringing about justice for Tom Robinson is worth putting himself at considerable risk. He suggests that ^{he would go to} great lengths in order to see that Tom's case is seen in court and that people don't try to take justice into their own hands and execute an innocent person.

Excerpt 8 from Chapter 20 (Atticus' closing argument)

"I have nothing but pity in my heart for the chief witness for the state, but my pity does not extend so far as to her putting a man's life at stake, which she has done in an effort to get rid of her own guilt."

"I say guilt, gentlemen, because it was guilt that motivated her. She has committed no crime, she has merely broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society, a code so severe that whoever breaks it is hounded from our midst as unfit to live with. She is the victim of cruel poverty and ignorance, but I cannot pity her: she is white. She knew full well the enormity of her offense, but because her desires were stronger than the code she was breaking, she persisted in breaking it. She persisted, and her subsequent reaction is something that all of us have known at one time or another. She did something every child has done—she tried to put the evidence of her offense away from her. But in this case she was no child hiding stolen contraband: she struck out at her victim—of necessity she must put him away from her—he must be removed from her presence, from this world. She must destroy the evidence of her offense."

"What was the evidence of her offense? Tom Robinson, a human being. She must put Tom Robinson away from her. Tom Robinson was her daily reminder of what she did. What did she do? She tempted a Negro."

"She was white, and she tempted a Negro. She did something that in our society is unspeakable: she kissed a black man. Not an old Uncle, but a strong young Negro man. No code mattered to her before she broke it, but it came crashing down on her afterwards."

"Her father saw it, and the defendant has testified as to his remarks. What did her father do? We don't know, but there is circumstantial evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left. We do know in part what Mr. Ewell did: he did what any God-fearing, persevering, respectable white man would do under the circumstances—he swore out a warrant, no doubt signing it with his left hand, and Tom Robinson now sits before you, having taken the oath with the only good hand he possesses—his right hand."

"And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated temerity to 'feel sorry' for a white woman has had to put his word against two white people's. I need not remind you of their appearance and conduct on the stand—you saw them for yourselves. The witnesses for the state, with the exception of the sheriff of Maycomb County, have presented themselves to you gentlemen, to this court, in the cynical confidence that their testimony would not be doubted, confident that you gentlemen would go along with them on the assumption—the evil assumption—that all Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings, that all Negro men are not to be trusted around our women, an assumption one associates with minds of their caliber."

"Which, gentlemen, we know is in itself a lie as black as Tom Robinson's skin, a lie I do not have to point out to you. You know the truth, and the truth is this: some Negroes lie, some Negroes are immoral, some Negro men are not to be trusted around women—black or white. But this is a truth that applies to the human race and to no particular race of men. There is not a person in this courtroom who has never told a lie, who has never done an immoral thing, and there is no man living who has never looked upon a woman without desire."

Atticus paused and took out his handkerchief. Then he took off his glasses and wiped them, and we saw another "first": we had never seen him sweat—he was one of those men whose faces never perspired, but now it was shining tan.

"One more thing, gentlemen, before I quit. Thomas Jefferson once said that all men are created equal, a phrase that the Yankees and the distaff side of the Executive branch in Washington are fond of hurling

racism is evil
Sins
blinds
people to
justice.

everyone
is
flawed.
humanity
is flawed.

at us. There is a tendency in this year of grace, 1935, for certain people to use this phrase out of context, to satisfy all conditions. The most ridiculous example I can think of is that the people who run public education promote the stupid and the idle along with the industrious—because all men are created equal, educators will gravely tell you, the children left behind suffer terrible feelings of inferiority. We know all men are not created equal in the sense some people would have us believe—some people are smarter than others, some people have more opportunity because they're born with it, some men make more money than others, some ladies make better cakes than others—some people are born gifted beyond the normal scope of most men.

“But there is one way in this country in which all men are created equal—there is one human institution that makes a pauper the equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution, gentlemen, is a court. It can be the Supreme Court of the United States or the humblest J.P. Our courts have their faults, as does any human institution, but in this country our courts are the great levelers, and in our courts all men are created equal.”

“I’m no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and in the jury system—that is no ideal to me, it is a living, working reality. Gentlemen, a court is no better than each man of you sitting before me on this jury. A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the men who make it up. I am confident that you gentlemen will review without passion the evidence you have heard, come to a decision, and restore this defendant to his family. In the name of God, do your duty.”

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene

Atticus delivers his closing remarks for the trial.

Atticus delivers his

calls on the jury to do their duty—to uphold justice.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus vs. society → Atticus must try to get the jury to see their own flaws and look past their own prejudice in order to fulfill the moral obligation of justice for to uphold justice for Tom.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

He faces the jury directly and appeals to their humanity, their sense of duty, and the fundamental ideals of American society.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: **Atticus is**

fair-minded, honest, intelligent, principled.

How does Atticus’s response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus's closing remarks emphasize that under the law everybody should be treated equally and that people have an individual responsibility to uphold social justice, regardless of race.

Excerpt 9 from Chapter 23

composed. Shows his integrity! "I wish Bob Ewell wouldn't chew tobacco," was all Atticus said about it.

According to Miss Stephanie Crawford, however, Atticus was leaving the post office when Mr. Ewell approached him, cursed him, spat on him, and threatened to kill him. Miss Stephanie (who, by the time she had told it twice was there and had seen it all—passing by from the Jitney Jungle, she was)—Miss Stephanie said Atticus didn't bat an eye, just took out his handkerchief and wiped his face and stood there and let Mr. Ewell call him names wild horses could not bring her to repeat. Mr. Ewell was a veteran of an obscure war; that plus Atticus's peaceful reaction probably prompted him to inquire, "Too proud to fight, you n*-lovin' bastard?" Miss Stephanie said Atticus said, "No, too old," put his hands in his pockets and strolled on. Miss Stephanie said you had to hand it to Atticus Finch, he could be right dry sometimes.

Jem and I didn't think it entertaining.

diffuses the situation w/ humor. self-deprecating remarks disarms Mr. Ewell. "After all, though," I said, "he was the deadest shot in the county one time. He could—"

"You know he wouldn't carry a gun, Scout. He ain't even got one—" said Jem. "You know he didn't even have one down at the jail that night. He told me havin' a gun around's an invitation to somebody to shoot you." *Does not believe in violence as an appropriate response to conflict.*

"This is different," I said. "We can ask him to borrow one."

We did, and he said, "Nonsense."

Dill was of the opinion that an appeal to Atticus's better nature might work: after all, we would starve if Mr. Ewell killed him, besides be raised exclusively by Aunt Alexandra, and we all knew the first thing she'd do before Atticus was under the ground good would be to fire Calpurnia. Jem said it might work if I cried and flung a fit, being young and a girl. That didn't work either.

But when he noticed us dragging around the neighborhood, not eating, taking little interest in our normal pursuits, Atticus discovered how deeply frightened we were. He tempted Jem with a new football magazine one night; when he saw Jem flip the pages and toss it aside, he said, "What's bothering you, son?" *A. is understanding*

Jem came to the point: "Mr. Ewell."

"What has happened?"

"Nothing's happened. We're scared for you, and we think you oughta do something about him."

Atticus smiled wryly. "Do what? Put him under a peace bond?"

"When a man says he's gonna get you, looks like he means it."

Continues to model tolerance. Considers Mr. Ewell's P.O.V. "He meant it when he said it," said Atticus. "Jem, see if you can stand in Bob Ewell's shoes a minute. I destroyed his last shred of credibility at that trial, if he had any to begin with. The man had to have some kind of comeback, his kind always does. So if spitting in my face and threatening me saved Mayella Ewell one extra beating, that's something I'll gladly take. He had to take it out on somebody and I'd rather it be me than that houseful of children out there. You understand?"

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene

Scout explains Atticus's response to his confrontation w/ Bob Ewell.

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

person v. person - Atticus is confronted by Bob Ewell, who spits in his face.

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

He walks away - does not retaliate. Instead he considers Bob Ewell's point of view in order to help his children to understand Bob's motivations.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is brave, nonviolent, composed, a man of integrity.

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

~~Atticus suggests~~
Atticus suggests that retribution is not synonymous with justice. He emphasizes that one must stick to his principles in the face of adversity and strive to consider the other person's perspective.

Through the actions of Atticus towards Mr. Ewell Lee demonstrates her support for nonviolent protest in order to stop the cycle of violence and hate.

Excerpt 10 from Chapter 23

"Then it all goes back to the jury, then. We oughta do away with juries." Jem was adamant.

Atticus tried hard not to smile but couldn't help it. "You're rather hard on us, son. I think maybe there might be a better way. Change the law. Change it so that only judges have the power of fixing the penalty in capital cases."

"Then go up to Montgomery and change the law."

"You'd be surprised how hard that'd be. I won't live to see the law changed, and if you live to see it you'll be an old man."

This was not good enough for Jem. "No sir, they oughta do away with juries. He wasn't guilty in the first place and they said he was."

"If you had been on that jury, son, and eleven other boys like you, Tom would be a free man," said Atticus. "So far nothing in your life has interfered with your reasoning process. Those are twelve reasonable men in everyday life, Tom's jury, but you saw something come between them and reason. You saw the same thing that night in front of the jail. When that crew went away, they didn't go as reasonable men, they went because we were there. There's something in our world that makes men lose their heads—they couldn't be fair if they tried. In our courts, when it's a white man's word against a black man's, the white man always wins. They're ugly, but those are the facts of life."

"Doesn't make it right," said Jem stolidly. He beat his fist softly on his knee. "You just can't convict a man on evidence like that—you can't."

"You couldn't, but they could and did. The older you grow the more of it you'll see. The one place where a man ought to get a square deal is in a courtroom, be he any color of the rainbow, but people have a way of carrying their resentments right into a jury box. As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it—whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from that white man is trash." - racist actions indicate that a person is "trash"

Atticus was speaking so quietly his last word crashed on our ears. I looked up, and his face was vehement. "There's nothing more sickening to me than a low-grade white man who'll take advantage of a Negro's ignorance. Don't fool yourselves—it's all adding up and one of these days we're going to pay the bill for it. I hope it's not in you children's time."

Complete the statement to put the scene in context: In this scene

In this scene Atticus discusses the failure of the jury to acquit Tom as a failure of the men on the jury to be reasonable

What type of conflict does Atticus deal with in this passage? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Person v. Society - Atticus and Jem confront the injustice brought about by the jury and the social codes that guide the people on the jury

How does he deal with that conflict? Provide textual evidence for your answer.

Atticus explains reasonably how the jury came to the decision it did; he helps Jem to understand the complexity of the issue.

Assertions about Atticus based on the passage: Atticus is

concerned for Jem, fairminded, principled, patient

How does Atticus's response to the conflict relate to the idea of social justice?

Atticus demonstrates that in order for social justice to be upheld a person must be treated fairly under the law and individuals must do what's right

A. realizes that the men needed to be fair-minded but they couldn't be bc of prejudice of social code.

social justice should be upheld in the courtroom