



I'm not robot



**Continue**

## To kill a mockingbird chapter 18 gist

The trial continues and the entire city is glued to the proceedings. Mayella, who testifies further, is clean enough, by Thewells' standards, and obviously terrified of a nineteen-year-old girl. She says she called Tom Robinson inside the fence that night and offered him a nickel to break up the dresser for her, and that as soon as he got into the house, he grabbed her and took advantage of it. In an cross-examination by Atticus, Mayella reveals that her life consists of seven useless siblings, a drunken father and no friends. Atticus then examines her testimony and asks why she didn't put up a better fight, why her screams didn't bring other children running, and most importantly, how Tom Robinson managed the crime: how he bruised the right side of his face with his useless left hand, which was torn apart by cotton gin when he was a boy. Atticus pleads with Mayell to admit that there was no rape, that her father beat her. She shouts at him and shouts that the courtroom should be a bunch of cowards not to convict Tom Robinson; then she burst into tears, refusing to answer any other questions. In the break that follows, Mr. Underwood notices the children on the balcony, but Jem tells Scout that the newspaper's editor won't tell Atticus about them there, though he may include it in the newspaper's social section. The prosecution is resting, and Atticus is calling only one witness - Tom Robinson. Summary: Chapter 19 Tom testifies that he always passed Ewell House on his way to work, and that Mayella often asked him to do housework for her. In the evening in question, he says, she asked him to come inside and fix the door. When he went inside, there was nothing wrong with the door, and he noticed that the other children had left. Mayella told him she saved her money and sent them all to buy ice cream. She then asked him to remove the box from the dresser. When Tom climbed on the chair, she grabbed him by the legs, scaring him so hard that he jumped down. She then hugged him by the waist and asked him to kiss her. As she struggled, her father showed up at the window, calling Myella a whore and threatening to kill her. Tom was running. Link Dees, Tom's white employer, stands up and states that in eight years of work he never had a problem with Tom. Judge Taylor violently expels Diaz from the courtroom for interruption. Mr. Gilmer gets up and cross-watching Tom. The prosecutor notes that the defendant was once arrested for petty hooliganism and forces Tom to confess that he has the strength, even on the one hand, to strangle the woman's breath and sling her to the floor. He begins to badger witness, asking about his motives always helps Mayella with her affairs, while Tom declares that he felt sorry for her. This statement puts the courtroom badly at ease - in Maycomb, black people should not feel sorry for a white man. Mr. Gilmer examines Mayella's testimony, accusing Tom of lying about everything. Dill cry, and the scout takes him out of the courtroom. Outside the courtroom, Dill complains to the scout about Mr Gilmer's abuse of Tom Robinson during questioning. As they walk, Scout and Dill encounter Mr. Dolfus Raymond, a wealthy white man with a colored mistress and mulatto children. Analysis: Chapter 18-19 Mayella Ewell is pathetic, and her miserable existence almost allows her to join the parade of the novel's innocent victims, she too is a kind of mockingbird, wounded beyond repair by the forces of ugliness, poverty and hatred that surround her. Mayella's performance highlights her role as a victim-her father beats her and possibly molests her, while she has to deal with her useless siblings. She lacked the kindness of her life to such an extent that when Atticus calls her Miss Mayella, she accuses him of making fun of her. She has no friends, and Scout seems justified in thinking she was supposed to be the loneliest person in the world. On the other hand, however, a photograph of Scout Maillella as a victim is overshadowed by her attempt to victimize Tom Robinson to cover her shame. We may have little real sympathy for Mayella Ewell- regardless of her suffering, she inflicts worse cruelty on others. Unlike Mr. Cunningham, who in Chapter 15 is sufficiently moved by the human warmth of the scout to disperse the lynch mob, Mayella responds to Atticus's polite questioning with grouchy growls. Pity should be reserved for Tom Robinson, whose honesty and kindness make him eminently moral. Unlike the Ewells, Tom is hardworking and honest and has enough compassion to make a fatal mistake, feeling sorry for Mayella Euell. His story is the true version of events: because of Tom's apparently truthful nature and Atticus's brilliant and morally striden questioning of the Ewells, the story leaves no room for doubt. A number of critics objected that the facts of the case are created to be - not pun intended - too black and white. But, as Atticus's awareness of his defeat as a foregone conclusion suggests, Lee was not interested in the plausibility of the trial. The exaggerated demarcation between good and evil makes the trial more important for its symbolic depiction of the destruction of innocent evil. As clear as it is that Tom is innocent, it is equally clear that Tom is doomed to die. Chapter 18 Mayella Euell has been called as a witness. Unlike his father, who looked as if he was preparing for his court appearance, bathing for the first time in months, if not years, Mayella looks as if she actually has a constant acquaintance with soap and water. Mr. Gilman asks Mayella to describe what happened that night, in her own words, but she doesn't answer, so he switches to more specific questions. Her answers are still minimal, so the judge asks her to just tell the court what happened, and she Judge Taylor tells her that she has no reason to shame or fear, as long as she tells the truth. Truth. The judge asks Mayella what she fears and points to Atticus. When the judge asks Mayella how old she is, she says she is nineteen and a half years old. The judge tells Mayella that Mr Finch is not going to scare her, and that his job as a judge is to stop him if he tries. Mayella, reassured, finally gets going on her testimony. What she said: She was on the porch when Tom Robinson came, she asked him to chop an old piece of furniture to flare up, and when she went inside to get a nickel to pay him, he attacked her from behind. Was she screaming and scared? Yes. What happened next? She can't remember, but in the end her father and Mr. Tate were there. Mr Gilmer asks again if Mayella has tried to fight her attacker and if he took the full advantage (18.38) out of her and she answers yes to both questions. Now it's Atticus' turn. Mayella takes offense at Atticus, calling her ma'am (she thinks he's laughing at her), and the scout wonders what her life is like, what she thinks is normal politeness rudeness. Some facts about Mayella: she is the eldest of seven children, her mom was dead for a while, she could read and write, but she only went to school for two or three years. Does she have any friends? Again, she thinks Atticus is making fun, since the idea seems so absurd. Atticus asks Mayella about her father (who is still in the room), whether he ever beat her, and she says, after hesitation, that he never touched her. Yes, we're not sure we believe that. Finally, Atticus's questions turn to the day of the alleged crime. Mayella says that Tom walked past the house every day, but this was the first time she asked him to come into the yard (although she jumped when he asked that question) but she may have asked him to do a random job before she could remember. We get a picture that this testimony definitely won't hold. Atticus quotes Mayella's previous testimony and asks her if the defendant hit her in the face: she says no, then yes, what she can't remember, then cries. When asked to identify the man who raped her, Mayella points to Tom, but Atticus tells him to get up so That Mayella can take a good look at him. Tom stands up, showing that his left hand on the leg is shorter than his right hand, and his left hand is shrivelled. Buoy! On the balcony, Reverend Sykes tells Jem and Scout that Tom caught his hand in cotton gin when he was a boy. Atticus asks how this man could have raped her, and she says she doesn't know how it happened, but it happened. Mr. Gilmer counters that Atticus is hitting a witness. Judge Taylor replies that if anyone does any browbeating it's Mayella, but he's the only one who laughs at his joke. Does Mayella want to review her testimony? No. It even adds some new details to try to make it more meaningful. Atticus asks a number of questions Mayella simply refuses to answer: why other children didn't hear her scream if she was screaming when she saw her father in the window and not in if her father was the one who beat her. After meeting with all these questions with silence, Mayella makes her last statement: It's n' over there took advantage of me' if you fine fancy gentlemen don't want not 'about it, then you are all yellow panties stinkin' (18.167). Maiella then broke down in tears and refused to answer any questions, whether from Atticus, from Mr. Gilmer or from Judge Taylor himself. Scout thinks that somehow Atticus wounded Mayella in a way that the scout does not understand, and that it made Atticus sick. Mayella leaves the witness to stand, directing a dagger-eyed hate at Atticus on the way. Time for a break. Scout wonders what nuances of the case she might miss, as it all seems to her quite simple, and remembers that Atticus told her that Judge Taylor is a good judge. The judge and lawyers return to reopen the case. Jem, Scout and Dill are glad to see that the judge brought with him a cigar, which he begins to eat, spitting out the pieces as soon as he chews them. It's almost 4 p.m., and Judge Taylor asks Atticus if they can finish the case this afternoon. Atticus says he thinks they can, and he only has one witness to call. Join today and never see them again. When you enter your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and check that you are over 13 years old. 13.