

Applied Practice

***To Kill A Mockingbird***

***Essential ELA***

**RESOURCE GUIDE**

By Harper Lee

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**Essential ELA**

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7. Read this sentence from the passage.

*The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities indigenous to that region.*

Which definition best matches the meaning of the word “indigenous” as it is used in this sentence?

- A. uncommon
  - B. native
  - C. suppressed
  - D. scornful
8. Halfway through her first day, Scout wanted to leave school because
- A. she had to stay away from Jem
  - B. her teacher had made her stand in the corner
  - C. she didn't want to study cows
  - D. she wouldn't be able to read with her father
9. The sentence “Miss Caroline told me to tell my father not to teach me anymore, it would interfere with my reading” can be described as
- A. allusion
  - B. hyperbole
  - C. irony
  - D. metaphor
10. In paragraph 18, compelled means
- A. forced
  - B. interested
  - C. discouraged
  - D. relieved

11. Read the following dictionary entry.

harbor (här´ber) *v.t.* 1. to give shelter. 2. to conceal or hide. 3. to keep or hold in the mind. 4. to track down.

Which definition best matches the meaning of the word harbor as it is used in paragraph 7?

- A. Definition 1
- B. Definition 2
- C. Definition 3
- D. Definition 4

12. What is the effect of Scout's comparing Miss Caroline to a peppermint drop? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (short answer)

13. What is the main conflict in this passage and its root causes? Support your answer with evidence from the text. (extended response)

## SELECTION 2

**Questions 1 – 10** refer to the following essay discussing the various ways Harper Lee presents the issues of class in a small southern town in the 1940s in her book *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The author has asked you to read and comment on the essay. Carefully read the essay and look for any revisions that need to be made and answer the questions that follow.

### Social Class in Maycomb

(1) In her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee very clearly shows the various distinctions that exist in the 1940s society of Maycomb, a fictitious small southern town. (2) She challenges many of the commonly held beliefs presented by various characters, and she puts forward the idea that what is most important is a person's character, not their social status.

(3) The Finches, Mrs. Dubose, and the members of Aunt Alexandras' missionary circle represent the top social strata in Maycomb. (4) The ladies of the missionary circle always "put on their hats to go across the street." (5) Although the ladies dress in soft pastel clothes, pour tea from an antique silver tea service, and sip the tea from dainty cups, Harper Lee manages to show the hypocrisy underlying they're elaborate manners. (6) She shows them expressing heartfelt sympathy for the "poverty, the darkness, the immorality" of those living in the faraway "jungles." (7) However, they express no sympathy for their own "cooks and field hands" who are "dissatisfied" about the unjust verdict declaring Tom Robinson guilty of a crime he did not commit. (8) Lee has miss Maudie point out the ladies' hypocrisy with a few well chosen, but polite, words.

(9) Lee also shows the foolishness of those who consider themselves superior simply because of an old family name or because of their economic status. (10) The Finch family goes back to the founder of Finch landing, as Aunt Alexandra constantly points out. (11) Mrs. Dubose lives in a nice house with carefully cultivated gardens. (12) Both women view themselves as better than other people in Maycomb, but Atticus is quick to point out that an old family is no claim to social superiority and that money does not make a person good.

(13) The idea that good manners, compassion, and honesty are more important than money and heritage is presented in the lunch scene with Walter Cunningham. (14) Walter is from a poor farming family, but Jem invites Walter to come home with he and Scout for lunch. (15) Since he has spent more time in the fields than in class, Atticus knows he can make Walter feel at home by discussing farming with him. (16) The comfortable rapport is broken when Walter pours molasses over everything on his plate, and Scout comments on this strange behavior. (17) Scout's pointing out his social error embarrasses Walter, and Atticus quietly shakes his head to discourage Scout's commentary. (18) Atticus's subtle reprimand of shaking his head is not enough to halt Scout's remarks, so Calpurnia takes Scout out to the kitchen.

(19) In the kitchen, Calpurnia explains that guests must always be treated with kindness and respect. (20) She says that guests must always be treated with kindness and respect even if their manners and behavior are different. (21) Both Atticus’s subtle headshake and Calpurnia’s removal of Scout to the kitchen to avoid criticizing her in front of the guest are examples of good manners and respect for the feelings of others.

(22) This emphasis on courtesy, kindness, and concern for others is reinforced in other places in the novel. (23) Atticus is always courteous to everyone, regardless of his or her social class. (24) He holds the belief that a person should walk a mile in another’s shoes before condemning the other person for certain behaviors. (25) Atticus is kind to Mrs. Dubose despite her constant verbal attacks. (26) Atticus explains Mrs. Dubose’s behavior to Jem by saying that she is old, ill, and in pain. (27) Atticus is equally understanding of Mayella Ewell and her problems, explaining Mayella’s behavior to his children by noting that Mayella did what she did in accusing Tom Robinson because of her hard life. (28) Mayella lives beside the town dump, but she tries to make her house pretty by growing geraniums. (29) She has no mother and must deal with a drunken and abusive father. (30) Mayella has no friends and no one to turn to for help because the town has written off the entire family as “poor white trash” who live on welfare checks and poaching.

(31) With the character of Atticus, Harper Lee demonstrates that social and economic status are merely superficial characteristics. (32) The true measure of a person’s worth is the extent to which that person exhibits Atticus’s traits of consideration, compassion, honesty, and fairness.

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| <p>1. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Delete the comma after <b>characters</b></li><li>B. Change <b>their</b> to <b>his or her</b></li><li>C. Change <b>person’s</b> to <b>persons’</b></li><li>D. Make no change</li></ul> <p>2. What change should be made in sentence 3?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Change <b>Alexandras’</b> to <b>Alexandra’s</b></li><li>B. Change <b>Finches</b> to <b>Finches’</b></li><li>C. Change <b>represent</b> to <b>represents</b></li><li>D. Change <b>missionary</b> to <b>Missionary</b></li></ul> | <p>3. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Insert a comma after <b>Although</b></li><li>B. Change <b>manages</b> to <b>managed</b></li><li>C. Change <b>they’re</b> to <b>their</b></li><li>D. Make no change</li></ul> <p>4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 8?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Change <b>ladies’</b> to <b>lady’s</b></li><li>B. Change <b>miss</b> to <b>Miss</b></li><li>C. Change <b>hypocrisy</b> to <b>hypocrasy</b></li><li>D. Make no change</li></ul> |
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## ESSAY WRITING PROMPTS

### Literary Writing

Scout says that she looked forward to going to school more than she had looked forward to anything in her life, yet her first day at school was not very enjoyable. Think of someone you know or someone you have read about who was surprised when his or her expectations did not match reality.

Write an essay in which you describe the person's experience so vividly that your readers can imagine how the person must have felt.

Be sure to —

- state your position clearly
- use appropriate organization
- provide specific support for your description
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

### Expository Writing

According to Atticus, a compromise is “an agreement reached by mutual concession.” Compromise occurs when people give up something they want or something they believe in so that a conflict may be resolved.

Think carefully about this statement. Write an essay explaining whether or not it is important to be able to compromise.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- provide specific support for your explanation
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling