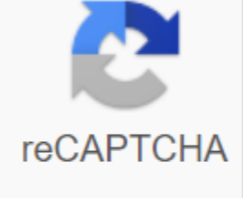




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## Chapter 11 of to kill a mockingbird pdf

To Kill a Mockingbird Chapter 11 Harper Lee Mrs. Dubose lived two doors away from us. She was a mean lady. She lived alone, except for a black girl who cared for her. Mrs. Dubose was very old. She spent most of the day in bed and the rest in a wheelchair. There were rumors that she hid a small gun in her dress. Jem and I hated her. Whenever we passed her house, she would look at us and ask us what we were doing. She'd say we're not doing any good. She said we wouldn't grow up to be anything good. Even if I tried to be nice and say, Hey, Mrs. Dubose, she was yelling at me, Don't tell me hey, ugly girl! You say good afternoon, Mrs. Dubose! She called us cheeky, disrespectful and that it was horrible that Atticus let us go wild. When Jem once complained to Atticus about the way she treated us, he said, Easy, son. She's an old lady and she's sick. Just keep your head high and be a gentleman. Whatever she says to you, it's your job not to let her make you crazy. And when Atticus passed by her place, he swept away his hat, waved to her, and said, Good evening, Mrs. Dubose! You look like a picture tonight. These were times when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any war, was the bravest man who ever lived. One day, Jem and I were walking past Mrs. Dubose's house when she asked us where we were going, and then she started yelling at us! She accused Jem of ruining Miss Mod's flowers. When Jem said he had not, Mrs. Dubose said, Don't you contradict me!! And you-she pointed the finger at me... What are you doing in these jumpsuits?? You have to be in a dress, young lady! Jem pulled me along and said, Come on, scout. Don't pay attention to her, just keep your head high and be a gentleman. But Mrs. Dubose cried out: Not only will you grow up to be nothing, but your father protects n'r! Your father is no better than the nan and the trash he works for! On our way to her house later in the day, Mrs. Dubose was not on the porch. Jem was overcome with anger for what she said about Atticus, and broke the promise he made to Atticus to keep his head high and be a gentleman. He destroyed Mrs. Dubose's flower bush. He cut off the flowers from every bush in her backyard. He was so crazy! We went home and waited for Atticus. We knew he was going to be crazy. Finally Atticus appeared, holding a crushed flower. Are you responsible for this? Yes, sir, Jem replied softly. Why would you do that? Jem quietly said: She said you are the law for n's and trash. Jem obviously felt really bad about what he did. He Head. Head. said: I understand that people have given you hard about the fact that I am defending Tom Robinson, but to do something like this to make a sick old lady unforgivable. I urge you to come down and talk to Mrs. Dubose. Come straight home after that. As soon as Jem left, Atticus and I talked. He said: Scout, when summer comes, you'll have to keep your head on much worse, because that's when Tom Robinson's trial will be. I know it's not fair to you and Jem, but sometimes we have to do everything we can, and I have to protect Tom Robinson, because it's the right thing to do. I couldn't live with myself if I didn't do the right thing. While other people might think I was wrong defending a black man, I know it's right when Jem came back, he told us that Mrs. Dubose wanted Jem to read aloud to her as punishment for what he did. He had to go every day and Saturday for one month and read aloud for two hours each time. Atticus said Jem would have to leave. So I went to Mrs. Dubose's house with Jem. Mrs. Dubose was in bed, and for a moment I felt a little sorry for her until she said, So you brought your dirty little sister, didn't you? Jem began to read and Mrs. Dubose would fix it sometimes. But after a while we noticed that she wasn't listening. She seemed to be in a lot of pain or something and kind of unconscious. Then the alarm went off and we could go home. I once asked Atticus what Ner-lover meant, because Mrs. Dubose called him that once. Atticus said: Scout, n'r-lover is just one of those terms that mean nothing like snot-nose. It's hard to explain ignorant, crappy people using it when they think someone is in favor of blacks over themselves. It's an ugly word to use and you or I should never say it. We finally finished our month of reading Mrs. Dubose. One day Atticus was called to Mrs. Dubose's house, and he returned with a box. He told us Mrs. Dubose was dead. He said she had been ill for a long time and that her fits (when she seemed to be in pain and going unconscious) were because she was addicted to morphine, an painkiller. She tried to break that addiction before she died. Most people just kept taking morphine so they didn't have to be in pain during the last months of their lives, but she wanted to die without addiction. So when she made Jem read to her, it was supposed to distract her from the pain that morphine didn't cause. She would take morphine later and later each day, so we had to read later and later before the alarm went off. Atticus gave Jem the box he brought. There was a beautiful flower in it. Jam she sent him to him to be angry, but in fact she tried to say that she had forgiven him. Atticus said: You know, she was a great lady. Jem asked: How could you call her a lady after all the horrible things she said about you?! She was a lady. She had her own view of things, much different from mine, maybe... Son, I wanted you to read to her because I wanted you to learn something from her. I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of knowing that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. This is when you know you're licking before you start, but you start anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do. Mrs. Dubose won, all ninety-eight pounds of her. She broke her addiction to morphine, which was very difficult to do. She was the bravest person I've ever known. The jem burned the box, but continued to touch the flower petals all night. In the summer after the second grade, the children decide to expand their horizons. They spend more time preparing for the city, which requires them to walk past the house of Miss Dubose, who never misses the opportunity to shout at children. This infuriates Jem, but Atticus tells him not to get upset. On a special walk, Miss Dubose makes comments about Atticus for children. Jem is furious and on a walk home destroys the bushes of Miss Dubose. Atticus sends Jem back to clean up his mess and work on her shrubs for every weekend. When Jem returns, he tells Atticus that Miss Dubose wants him to read to her instead. Next weekend, Jem, accompanied by a scout, goes to read Miss Dubose. Miss Dubose is very ill and spends most of the day in the fog. After a few days off, they are free from reading to her. Atticus goes to visit Miss Dubose one weekend. When he returns, he announces that she has passed away. Atticus explains to the children that Miss Dubose was addicted to morphine as a result of her illness and that she spent the last months of her life freeing herself from addiction. He tells them that their company helped her keep her mind in pain. Atticus opens the box with a piece of his shrub in it. Atticus tells them that Miss Dubose's strong and brave woman was to fight her addiction. LitCharts assigns the color and icon of each theme in To Kill a Mockingbird, which can be used to track topics throughout the work. Okay, evil, and human dignity Chapter 11 Now that scout is an adult second grader, tormenting Boo Radley seems like a little thing. It sets its sights outside the neighborhood in the metropolis in downtown Maycomb. Getting downtown, however, requires getting past Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose's home. The old woman throws in them every time they pass by her house, no matter how good they are to her. But Atticus makes a polite conversation with Dubose, so Scout thinks he's incredibly brave. The day after Jem turns twelve, he'll have a lot of money for his birthday. They head into town for him to lighten his pockets. On the shopping list: a toy steam engine for Jem and a baton for the scout. When they pass Mrs. Dubose, she accuses them of playing hooked, although it is Saturday. Jem and Scout can put up with it, but when she attacks their father for defending Tom Robinson, the scout must drag Jam away. They make their shopping and head home, passing Mrs. Dubose's house again. She's not on the porch, and Jem clicks. He grabs a new scout baton, and uses it to destroy Mrs. Dubose's camellias, finally breaking the baton on his knee. Atticus comes home, and he's not happy. He tells his son that whatever she says, these poor flowers have never hurt anyone, and Jem needs to apologize right now. Meanwhile, Scout finally speaks his mind. No, her father says it's not fair. But things will only get worse as the Tom Robinson case gets closer. When they're older, they'll understand why he's doing what he's doing. But isn't Atticus wrong, because most citizens think it's true? No, atticus says. Personal conscience is not democracy. Finally- Jem is back. He cleaned the yard and apologized (although he did not mean), and now Mrs. Dubose wants him to come every day except Sunday to read to her. Atticus says he has to do it. There's no point in apologizing if it's not sincere. As a sick old lady, Mrs. Dubose cannot be held responsible for her actions. Atticus is much more forgiving than we are. Anyway, Jem is heading to Mrs. Dubose's house for his first round of reading. Scout goes with him. They find her in bed and she gets in a few harsh words before Jem starts reading. Her face is disgusting- wrinkled, spotty, toothless, and drooling, so the scout tries to find something else to look at. After a while, the children notice that Mrs. Dubose's frequent corrections of his mistakes have fallen, and she doesn't even notice when he stops in the middle of the sentence. Yes. She seems to be in some form. The kids ask if she's okay, but she doesn't answer. Then the alarm goes off, and Mrs. Dubose's servant Jesse kicks them out of the house, saying it's time for Mrs. Dubose's medicine. Reading Ms. Dubose becomes part of their daily schedule. One evening the scout asks Atticus exactly what the n'-lover (11.100) is, since that's what Ms. Dubose often calls him, and that's also what Francis said. Is that why she attacked Francis? Yes. Atticus asks why Scout asks for a definition if she understood it well enough to make it a cause for a fight, and Scout that was the way Francis said he got on his nerves. Atticus tells her that the term means nothing, but it's something ignorant, crappy people use when they think someone is someone. NES over themselves (11.107) and that even higher-end people use it sometimes when they want to put someone down. It's not really an insult; it just shows you how poor (11.109) the person using it. One afternoon while Jem shuts away at Reading Aloud to Mrs. Dubose, Atticus surprises them by coming in. Ms. Dubose says that Jem should come a week longer though the initial month, and Atticus says he should do it. Finally, the last day of reading is over. Cheers! Now Jem can turn to more important things, such as student football. One night Mrs. Dubose dies. Atticus comes home with a box and an explanation: Ms. Dubose was a morphine addict and wanted to kick the habit before she died as a matter of personal pride. Her seizures were triggered by withdrawal, and reading helped keep her mind from craving until the alarm went off and she could have a dose (which also explains why reading periods got bigger and longer). By the end of the reading this afternoon, she was free of the drug habit. Atticus box brought home for Jem. When he opens it, he finds a camellia. Jem is mad at this needle from behind the grave, but Atticus tells him that he thinks it's a message that's all right. If jam didn't go on an anti-camelism rampage, Atticus might have made his son go read Mrs. Dubose anyway, in order to see that real courage (11.153) - not by using a gun, but fighting for the cause you believe in, even if you know you probably won't win. 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.