Questions for Chapters 20-26 *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Directions: Answer in well thought-out, complete sentences. These are not simple questions. They require you to think about the novel. It may take more than one sentence to give an Honors quality answer; I expect Honors quality answers. If a question has more than one part, be sure to answer all of the parts. (163 points)

Chapter 20: (24)

1. Why is Atticus’ statement, “This case is as simple as black and white” ironic? (ironic= coincidental, unexpected, or a use of words to communicate the **opposite** of what is being said) (8)
2. According to Atticus, of what is Mayella guilty? Do you think she or her father is responsible for her being in court? Explain your answer. (8)
3. Evaluate Atticus’ closing argument. Do you think it is effective for the situation? What, if anything, could Atticus have done differently to make it more effective, in your opinion? (8)

Chapter 21: (18)

1. Why does the author compare the courtroom to a church? (“…but the grown people sat as if they were in church”) (6)
2. List at least two times the guilty verdict is foreshadowed in this chapter. (6)
3. At the end of the chapter WHY does Reverend Sykes want Scout to stand as Atticus is passing? (6)

Chapter 22: (26)

1. The evidence seems conclusive that Tom Robinson is innocent. Explain how you think it came about that the jury finds him guilty. (8)
2. What causes Jem to incorrectly predict the outcome of the trial? (6)
3. Why does Atticus say about the Robinson case, “It’s not time to worry yet”? (6)
4. What does Miss Maudie mean when she says, “We’re so rarely called on to be Christians, but when we are, we’ve got men like Atticus to go for us”? (6)

Chapter 23: (37)

1. Do you think Aunt Alexandra is correct in her assessment of Bob Ewell? Do you think Atticus is? Why do Jem and Scout cease to be afraid? (9)
2. The narrator says, “perhaps our forefathers were wise” in not putting women on juries. What’s your opinion of that statement, and why? (6)
3. How does Atticus define trash? How does Aunt Alexandra? How does Scout? How does Mrs. Dubose (back to Ch. 11)? Do you think society needs a classification system like this (levels of people – some at the bottom being “trash”)? Why or why not? (10)
4. Scout says, “I think there’s just one kind of folks. Folks.” What do you think of this statement and why? (6)
5. Do you agree with Jem’s assessment of Boo at the end of the chapter? Why or why not? (6)

Chapter 24: (10)

1. What irony is there in the missionary circle’s fascination with the Mrunas? (6)
2. What do you think has made Scout decide that she wants to be a lady? (4)

Chapter 25: (22)

1. What kind of a career do you think Dill would be suited for as an adult? Why? (4)
2. How does Mr. Underwood’s editorial reflect the theme(s) of the book? (6)
3. What do you think this statement means, “Tom was a dead man the minute Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and screamed”? (6)
4. Do you think Jem’s assessment of Bob Ewell is accurate? Why or why not? (6)

Chapter 26: (26)

1. Scout learns that Atticus actually knew that she, Dill, and Jem had been at the Radleys’ the night Jem lost his pants. What does this tell you about Atticus? (6)
2. If people are so dissatisfied with Atticus, why do you think they continue to elect him to the legislature? (6)
3. What does Cecil’s question, “They’re white, ain’t they?” mean? (6)
4. Do you agree with Atticus’ statement “It’s not okay to hate anybody? Why or why not? (8)