Vocabulary Study

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

*Note: The words, definitions, and quotations in the first section are given in the order as they appear in the 1982 Warner Books edition.*

### Chapters 1–5

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1. **assuage** (uh-SWEYJ, uh-SWEYZ) *v.* to lessen or to calm

   derivatives: assuaging, assuagement, assuager

   “. . . Jem’s fears of never being able to play football were assuaged . . .” (7).

2. **indigenous** (in-DIJ-uh-nuhhs) *adj.* belonging to a particular region or country

   “The class murmured apprehensively, should she prove to harbor her share of the peculiarities indigenous to that region” (21).

3. **onslaught** (ON-slawt, AWN-) *n.* a violent attack

   “His fists were half cocked, as if expecting an onslaught from both of us” (27).

4. **erratic** (ih-RAT-ik) *adj.* irregular

   derivative: erratically

   “She was furious, and when she was furious Calpurnia’s grammar became erratic” (29).

5. **persevere** (PUR-suh-veer) *v.* to carry on in spite of difficulties

   derivatives: perseverance, persevering

   “Apparently she had revived enough to persevere in her profession” (30).
6. **contentious** (kuhn-TEN-shuh-s) *adj.* always ready to argue or fight

   “‘Ain’t got no mother,’ was the answer, ‘and their paw’s right contentious” (32).

7. **disapprobation** (DIS-ap-ruh-BEY-shuh-n) *n.* disapproval

   derivative: approbation

   “‘I’m afraid our activities would be received with considerable disapprobation by the more learned authorities’” (36).

8. **auspicious** (aw-SPISH-uh-s) *adj.* favorable

   derivatives: auspiciously, inauspicious

   “The remainder of my schooldays were no more auspicious than the first” (37).

9. **benign** (bih-NAHYN) *adj.* kind and gentle

   derivatives: benignantly, benignly

   “. . . she was only another lady in the neighborhood, but a relatively benign presence” (46).

10. **edification** (ED-uh-fi-KEY-shuh-n) *n.* education; instruction

    derivatives: edify, edifying

    “‘No,’ said Atticus, ‘putting his life’s history on display for the edification of the neighborhood’” (54).
Chapters 6–10

aberration  malignant
caricature  provocation
compensation  prowess
inconspicuous  unfathomable
ingenuous  vigil

1. **prowess** (PROU-is) *n.* superior ability or skill

“...the ensuing contest to determine relative distances and respective **prowess** only made me feel left out again. . . .” (55).

2. **malignant** (muh-LIG-nuhht) *adj.* dangerous; evil

derivative: malignantly

“... the chinaberry trees were **malignant**, hovering, alive” (60).

3. **vigil** (VIJ-uh1) *n.* a watch.

derivatives: vigilant, vigilance

“Next day Jem repeated his **vigil** and was rewarded” (67).

4. **unfathomable** (ün-FATH-ə-mə-bal) *adj.* something that can not be understood

derivatives: fathomable, fathomer, unfathomable, unfathomableness, unfathomed

“For reasons **unfathomable** to the most experienced prophets in Maycomb county, autumn turned to winter that year” (68).

5. **aberrations** (ab-uh-REY-shuhn) *n.* a deviation, or a moving away from, something that is normal

derivatives: aberrant, aberrational

“Jem and I were burdened with the guilt of contributing to the **aberrations** of nature . . .” (68).
### 6. *caricatures* (KAR-i-kuh-CHER, -choor) *n.* a representation of a person where certain features of that person are exaggerated or distorted

- derivatives: caricatureable, caricatural, caricaturist, self-caricature

“‘You can’t go around making *caricatures* of the neighbors’” (72).

### 7. *compensation* (KOM-puh-n-SEY-shuh-n) *n.* to pay for something or to make up for something

- derivatives: compensate, compensated, compensating

“The fact that Aunty was a good cook was some *compensation* for being forced to spend a religious holiday with Francis Hancock” (82).

### 8. *ingenuous* (in-JEN-yoo-uh-s) *adj.* simple; innocent

- derivatives: ingenuously, ingenuousness

“... he enjoyed everything I disapproved of, and disliked my *ingenuous* diversions” (82).

### 9. *provocation* (prov-uh-KEY-shuh-n) *n.* to excite some sort of feeling; often anger or irritation.

- derivatives: provoke, provoking

“‘Well, I don’t,’” said Uncle Jack, “‘Well not unless there’s extreme *provocation* connected with ‘em’” (83).

### 10. *inconspicuous* (in-kuh-n-SPIK-yoo-uh-s) *adj.* To be conspicuous is to attract attention. To be *inconspicuous* is to do the opposite; to not attract attention.

- derivatives: inconspicuously, inconspicuousness

“With these attributes, however, he would not remain as *inconspicuous* as we wished him to. . . .” (94).
1. **degradation** (DEG-ruh-DEY-shuhn) *n.* a state of low honor or moral character
   
   derivatives: degrading, degradational, degradative
   
   “. . .we were followed up the street by a philippic on our family’s moral **degradation** . . .” (106).

2. **umbrage** (UHM-brij) *n.* offense
   
   “. . .but I took **umbrage** at Mrs. Dubose’s assessment of the family’s mental hygiene” (106).

3. **reconnaissance** (ri-KON-uh-SUHNS, -ZUHNS) *n.* examination
   
   derivative: reconnoitering
   
   “He set me on my feet, and I made a secret **reconnaissance** of Jem” (109).

4. **indignantly** (ĭn-DIG-nant ly) *adv.* angrily
   
   derivative: indignant
   
   “. . .but the roses on her hat trembled **indignantly**” (121).

5. **infallible** (in-FAL-uh-buhl) *adj.* never wrong
   
   derivatives: infallibility, infallibleness, infallibly
   
   “. . .his **infallible** sense of direction told him he was in Abbott County. . .”(142).
6. ominous (OM-uh-nuh) adj. threatening; sinister

derivatives: ominously, ominousness

“There was a murmur among the group of men, made more ominous when Atticus moved back. . . .”(148).

7. stifle (STAHY-fuhl) v. hold back; suppress

derivatives: stifler, unstifled

“Atticus tried to stifle a smile but didn’t make it” (149).

8. venerable (VEN-er-uh-buhl) adj. impressive on account of age or historic associations

derivatives: venerability, venerably

“The Maycomb jail was the most venerable and hideous of the county’s buildings” (152).

9. acquiescence (AK-wee-ES-uh) n. agreement without protest

derivative: acquiesce

“We were accustomed to prompt, if not always cheerful acquiescence to Atticus’s instructions. . . .”(154).

10. aggregation (AG-ri-GEY-shuhn) n. group; gathering

derivatives: aggregated, aggregating, aggregates, aggregately, aggregative, aggregator

“I slowly awoke to the fact that I was addressing the entire aggregation” (156).
Chapters 16–20

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1. **formidable** (fawr-MI-duh-buh1] adj. impressive
   derivatives: formidableness, formidability, formidably
   “. . .Miss Maudie’s command of Scripture was **formidable**” (161).

2. **elucidate** (ih-LOO-si-deyt) v. explain
   derivatives: elucidation, elucidative, elucidator
   “We asked Miss Maudie to **elucidate**. . . .” (162).

3. **congenital** (kuhn-JEN-i-tl) adj. a condition that is in existence at birth
   derivative: congenitally
   “. . .no public health officer could free them from **congenital** defects. . . .” (172).

4. **prosperity** (pro-SPER-i-tee) n. good fortune; wealth
   derivative: prosperous
   “. . .the Ewells lived as guests of the county in **prosperity** as well as in the depths of a depression (172).”

5. **acrimonious** (AK-ruh-MOH-nee-uhs) adj. sarcastic; bitter; nasty
   derivatives: acrimoniously, acrimoniousness
   “We could tell, however, when the debate became more **acrimonious** than professional. . . .” (174).
6. **strenuous** (STREN-yoo-uh-s) *adj.* work or labor that is **strenuous** requires a lot of energy and stamina.

derivatives: strenuously, strenuousness, strenuosity

“She seemed somehow fragile-looking, but when she sat facing us in the witness chair she became what she was, a thick-bodied girl accustomed to **strenuous** labor” (181).

7. **perpetual** (per-PECH-oo-uh-l) *adj.* everlasting; continuous

derivatives: perpetuality, perpetually

“...the younger children had **perpetual** colds and suffered from chronic ground-itch. ...” (185).

8. **volition** (voh-LISH-uhn, vuh-) *n.* the act of willing, choosing, or resolving; exercise of willing

derivatives: volitional, volitionary

“...a respectable Negro would never go up into somebody’s yard of his own **volition**” (195).

9. **discreet** (dih-SKREET) *adj.* carefully phrased; cautious

derivatives: discretion, discreetly, discreetness

“Mr. Raymond chuckled, not at all offended, and I tried to frame a **discreet** question. ...” (203).

10. **temerity** (tuh-MER-i-tee) *n.* foolish or rash boldness

“...And so a quiet, respectable, humble Negro who had the unmitigated **temerity** to ‘feel sorry’ for a white woman as had to put his word against two white people’s.” (207).
### Chapters 21–26

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<tr>
<td><strong>acquit</strong></td>
<td>v. clear of a charge; find not guilty</td>
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<td><strong>cynical</strong></td>
<td>adj. someone who often belittles or makes fun of someone else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>exhilarated</strong></td>
<td>adj. cheerful, merry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>impertinence</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>infantile</strong></td>
<td>adj. childish</td>
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<td><strong>recluse</strong></td>
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1. **acquit** (uh-KWIT) v. clear of a charge; find not guilty
   derivatives: acquitted, acquitting
   “‘You think they’ll **acquit** him that fast’” (210).

2. **exhilarated** (ig-ZIL-uh-REYT-ed) adj. cheerful, merry
   derivatives: exhilarate, exhilarating
   “I was **exhilarated**” (210).

3. **cynical** (SIN-i-kuh1) adj. someone who often belittles or makes fun of someone else
   derivatives: cynic, cynically
   “‘It’s not becoming to a child. It’s—**cynical**’” (217).

4. **vehement** (VEE-uh-muhnt) adj. full of emotion and strong feeling
   derivative: vehemently
   “I looked up and his face was **vehement**” (223).

5. **infantile** (IN-fuhn-tahyl, -til) adj. childish
   derivative: infantility
   “Jem waved my question away as being **infantile**” (229).
6. impertinence (im-PUR-tn-uh-ns) n. disrespect
derivative: impertinent

“Miss Stephanie eyed me suspiciously, decided that I meant no impertinence....” (233).

7. squalor (SKWOL-er, SKWAW-er) n. filth

“Out there in J. Grimes Everett’s land there’s nothing but sin and squalor” (234).

8. remorse (ri-MAWRS) n. a feeling of regret and guilt
derivative: remorseful

“I sometimes felt a twinge of remorse, when passing by the old place...” (245).

9. recluse (REK-loos, ri-KLOOS) n. someone who stays away from society and the company of others
derivative: reclusive

“...what reasonable recluse wants children peeping through his shutters...” (245).

10. spurious (SPYOOR-ee-uh-s) adj. outwardly resembles something but does not have the genuine qualities of that thing.
derivatives: spuriously, spuriousness

“The rural children who could, usually brought clippings from what they called The Grit Paper, a publication spurious in the eyes of Miss Gates, our teacher” (246).
### Chapters 27–31

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<td>adj. lacking distinctive characteristics; commonplace, uninteresting</td>
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<tr>
<td>carcass</td>
<td>n. dead body, corpse</td>
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<tr>
<td>eccentricities</td>
<td>n. odd or unconventional behavior, manner, or ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>florid</td>
<td>adj. very flowery in style, elegant</td>
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<td>irascible</td>
<td>adj. easily angered, short-tempered</td>
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<tr>
<td>nonescript</td>
<td>adj. dull, with no special or interesting qualities</td>
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<tr>
<td>notoriety</td>
<td>n. fame</td>
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<tr>
<td>repertoire</td>
<td>n. collection of works of art, music, poetry, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>reprimand</td>
<td>n. scolding, reprimand for wrongdoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>staccato</td>
<td>adj. short and abrupt, as with specific notes or music</td>
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1. **notoriety** (noh-tuh-RAHY-i-tee) *n.* fame
   
   **derivative:** notorious
   
   “I suppose his brief burst of fame brought on a briefer burst of industry, but his job lasted only as long as his **notoriety**. . .” (250)

2. **florid** (FLAWR-id, FLOR-id) *adj.* very flowery in style; elegant
   
   **derivative:** floridly
   
   “One Sunday night, lost in fruity metaphors and **florid** diction, Judge Taylor’s attention was wrenched from the page . . .” (251).

3. **nondescript** (NON-di-SKRIPT) *adj.* dull; with no special or interesting qualities
   
   “‘Hush,’” he said to Ann Taylor, his fat **nondescript** dog” (251).

4. **carcass** (KAHR-kuh)s *n.* body
   
   “‘First thing you can do, Ewell, is get your stinkin’ **carcass** off my property’” (252).

5. **eccentricities** (EK-suh-n-TRIS-i-tee, EK-sen-) *n.* odd behavior
   
   **derivative:** eccentric
   
   “. . . our classmates mercifully let us forget our father’s **eccentricities**” (253).
### 6. repertoire (REP-er-twahr, -twawr, rep-uh-) n. accomplishments; skills.

**derivative:** repertory

“High above us in the darkness a solitary mocker poured out his **repertoire**. . . . (257).

### 7. irascible (ih-RAS-uh-buhl) adj. angry

**derivatives:** irascibility, irascibleness, irascibly

“High above us in the darkness . . . [we heard] . . . the **irascible** qua-ack of a bluejay. . . .” (257).

### 8. staccato (stuh-KAH'-toh) adj. distinct; sharp and crisp

“The man was walking with the **staccato** steps of someone carrying a load too heavy for him” (266).

### 9. reprimand (REP-ruh-mand, -mahnd, REP-ruh-mand, -mahnd) v. scold

**derivatives:** reprimander, reprimandingly

“. . .I pointed to the man in the corner, but brought my arm down quickly lest Atticus **reprimand** me for pointing” (273).

### 10. blandly (BLAND-ly) adv. smoothly; without excitement

**derivatives:** blander, blandest

“If Atticus could **blandly** introduce me to Boo Radley at a time like this. . . .” (273).
## List of Words from *To Kill a Mockingbird*

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Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

To Kill A Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 1–5

assuage  
assuasive  
benign  
contentious  
disapprobation  
edification  
eratic  
indigenous  
onslaught  
persevere

1. Scout’s teacher believes the girl is being _______ because she is always ready to fight about wanting and knowing how to read.

2. Calpurnia usually uses good grammar, but when she is angry, her grammar is _______.

3. Because Scout already knows how to read, her teacher has an air of ______ and thinks that the little girl needs to stop reading with her father.

4. The children feel that a friendship with the strange man on their block is ______ rather than dangerous.

5. Foot-washing Baptists are ______ to Maycomb and had been a part of the area for generations.

6. Dill holds up his hands in defense, perhaps thinking the other two children plan an ______.

7. While Jem likes school and learning, Scout does not have a very ______ beginning.

8. For the _____ of his daughter, Atticus suggests to Scout that they continue to read at home, but that she allow the teacher to work with her too.

9. Scout’s teacher has to _______ in her attempt to rid Scout of bad reading habits.

10. Because Jem’s arm was twisted a little, Atticus tries to _____ his fears of never being able to play football again.
Fill-in-the-Blank Activity
To Kill a Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 6–10

aberration  malignant
caricature  provocation
compensation  prowess
inconspicuous  unfathomable
ingenuous  vigil

1. Because the children know almost all the neighbors in Maycomb, the reasons Boo never comes out are _______ to them.

2. The children try to prove their _____ when they sneak out to spy on Boo Radley.

3. Scout wishes that Atticus would remain ______, but the children learn that, although they think he is old and feeble, he possesses many talents.

4. Uncle Jack warns Scout that she should avoid using cuss words because they are useless, unless she gets very angry or finds herself under extreme ______.

5. The attitude of the town takes a ______ turn when some call Atticus a name for defending a black man.

6. Although her behavior seems ______, Scout often earns the consternation of her father.

7. Jem keeps a close ______ on the comings and goings of the Radley house, just to get a peek of Boo.

8. Winter comes quickly to Maycomb, which is an _______ of nature and something they do not readily understand.

9. Although the children do not like spending time with their cousin Francis, there is some ______ in that they see their father and uncle in a special setting.

10. In making up stories about Boo Radley, the children create a _______ of the real person.
Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

To Kill a Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 11–15

acquiescence  
aggregation  
degradation  
indignantly  
imfallible  
onymous  
reconnaissance  
strike  
umbrage  
venerable

1. When Dill shows up underneath Scout’s bed, she is surprised at his unwavering and ______ sense of their friendship.

2. Lula is ____ when Calpurnia brings Scout and Jem to her church.

3. The children do not always comply with immediate ______ when told to do something by an adult.

4. Atticus must use common sense when he is faced with an _______ of angry Maycomb citizens who believe Tom Robinson is guilty.

5. After insulting Walter Cunningham about drowning his lunch syrup, Scout’s ______ is complete when Calpurnia sends her to the kitchen to finish her lunch.

6. Jem, Scout, and Dill take a quick _______ of the courthouse before entering the doors.

7. The children take ______ when their classmates taunt them about their father’s newest court case.

8. Both Mrs. Dubose and the courthouse could be viewed as being ______ since they are both old and historic.

9. Atticus stands guard outside the courthouse as an _____ mob of men comes to take Tom away.

10. Many adults such as Aunt Alexandra and Mrs. Dubose try to ______ the children’s behavior in favor of what they considered more appropriate social skills.
Fill-in-the-Blank Activity
To Kill a Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its
derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the
quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 16–20

1. Aunt Alexandra uses her own ______ as a weapon against those less fortunate.

2. The idea of Atticus going against the entire town when he chooses to defend Tom Robinson is
a ______ concept for the children.

3. Dill is thought to have a ______ weakness which resulted in his short stature.

4. Heck Tate takes the stand of his own ______, trusting in Atticus’s knowledge of the law to
find the truth.

5. Mayella Ewell convinces Tom Robinson to help her, even though she clearly is capable of
_____ work.

6. Jem and Scout get to know Dolphus Raymond, showing the kind of ______ that often gets
them into trouble.

7. Without a doubt, the people of Maycomb are often ______ to those who are different from
them.

8. One of the beliefs Jem and Scout know about Atticus is his _____ quest for the truth and the
goodness he believes everyone possesses.

9. The children try to be ________ when they sneak into the courtroom against their father’s
wishes.

10. Atticus asks Mr. Ewell to ________ the events that are the foundation for the trial.
Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

To Kill a Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 21–26

acquit  reclusie

cynical  remorse

exhilarated  spurious

impertinence  squalor

infantile  vehement

1. Miss Gates thinks that The Grit Paper is _______ and far inferior to a publication like The Mobile Register or other newspapers.

2. During a missionary meeting, Aunt Alexander talks about the _______ of the African tribe while ignoring the communities close to home that need help.

3. The children are hopeful that Atticus’s powerful closing speech can convince the jury to _______ Tom Robinson.

4. Scout eventually understands that a person who wants to be a _______ and not be bothered by visitors should be respected and not ridiculed.

5. Aunt Alexandra tells Dill that his remarks about his own aunt’s drinking habits are _______ and believes he should have more respect for his elders.

6. As Atticus leaves the courtroom, a quiet yet __________ crowd on the balcony has high hopes for the trial’s outcome.

7. After a classroom discussion of Adolf Hitler and his treatment of the Jews, Scout is full of _______ for the way she has treated Walter Cunningham and Boo Radley.

8. As Jem grows older, many times he disregards Scout’s actions as _______ behavior.

9. In her discussion with Aunt Alexandra following the trial, Scout becomes __________ in her defense of Walter Cunningham’s situation.
10. During one of Aunt Alexandra’s missionary circle meetings, Scout does her very best to avoid showing ________ toward the women who attend.
Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

To Kill a Mockingbird

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Chapters 27–31

bland     nondescript
 carcass   notoriety
 eccentricities  repertoire
 florid     reprimand
 irascible  staccato

1. After the trial, Bob Ewell feels a bit of ______ and thinks he can get his revenge on the judge and some of Macomb’s citizens.

2. In Scout’s mind, sometimes the events in the small town are ______ and downright boring.

3. Scout learns that although everyone has his own ________, having odd behavior is not necessarily bad.

4. The ______ mutter of an unknown attacker splits the night, and Jem is attacked.

5. Waiting for Jem to wake up after he is brutally attacked, Scout wants to avoid Atticus’s ______ because she is not asleep.

6. By the end of Halloween night, Scout and Jem could look ______ at the Radley house and understand the meaning of friendship.

7. The children hear a sharp, ______ noise, a scuffle in the darkness, and then deep silence.

8. Scout learns that the _____ of the mockingbird is all the songs it can sing and sounds it can make.

9. The farmers of the town would often leave a dead _____ on the doorstep as payment for Atticus’s services.

10. Despite their seeming lack of education, Helen Robinson and the Negro community offer ______ praise of Atticus’s sincere attempt to help Tom.
## Multiple Choice Test

1. agreement without protest  
   a. condescend  
   b. contentious  
   c. acquiescence  
   d. provocation  
   e. compensation

2. a state of low honor or moral character  
   a. degradation  
   b. vigil  
   c. eccentricity  
   d. prosperity  
   e. recluse

3. oddities; unconventionality  
   a. recluse  
   b. florid  
   c. carcass  
   d. eccentricities  
   e. repertoire

4. not attracting attention  
   a. inconspicuous  
   b. auspicious  
   c. malignant  
   d. unfathomable  
   e. infallible

5. something that resembles something but does not have the general qualities of that thing  
   a. aberration  
   b. florid  
   c. indigenous  
   d. spurious  
   e. reconnaissance

6. superior ability or skill  
   a. compensation  
   b. prowess  
   c. ingenuous  
   d. congenital  
   e. spurious

7. impressive  
   a. erratic  
   b. venerable  
   c. nondescript  
   d. irascible  
   e. formidable

8. to carry on in spite of difficulties  
   a. strenuous  
   b. formidable  
   c. discreet  
   d. persevere  
   e. remorseful

9. simple, innocent  
   a. infantile  
   b. nondescript  
   c. repertoire  
   d. contentious  
   e. ingenuous

10. explain  
    a. edification  
    b. volition  
    c. elucidate  
    d. reprimand  
    e. provocation

11. belittling or making fun of someone  
    a. cynical  
    b. persevere  
    c. contentious  
    d. acquit  
    e. reprimand

12. favorable  
    a. auspicious  
    b. infantile  
    c. temerity  
    d. erratic  
    e. indignant
### Vocabulary Study: To Kill A Mockingbird

#### 13. foolish or rash boldness
- a. *assuage*
- b. *venerable*
- c. *temerity*
- d. *strenuous*
- e. *congenital*

#### 14. impressive because of age or historic associations
- a. *venerable*
- b. *florid*
- c. *irascible*
- d. *vehement*
- e. *ingenuous*

#### 15. angry
- a. *ominous*
- b. *volition*
- c. *formidable*
- d. *irascible*
- e. *nondescript*

#### 16. disapproval
- a. *contentious*
- b. *onslaught*
- c. *squalor*
- d. *reconnaissance*
- e. *disapprobation*

#### 17. calm
- a. *assuage*
- b. *stifle*
- c. *reprimand*
- d. *acquit*
- e. *elucidate*

#### 18. learning; education
- a. *erratic*
- b. *discreet*
- c. *aggregation*
- d. *edification*
- e. *compensation*

#### 19. disrespect
- a. *indigenous*
- b. *caricature*
- c. *aberration*
- d. *notoriety*
- e. *impertinence*

#### 20. belonging to a particular region or country
- a. *congenital*
- b. *indigenous*
- c. *perpetual*
- d. *discreet*
- e. *blandly*

#### 21. threatening; sinister
- a. *unfathomable*
- b. *malignant*
- c. *spurious*
- d. *ominous*
- e. *indignant*

#### 22. kind and gentle
- a. *condescend*
- b. *malignant*
- c. *persevere*
- d. *exhilarate*
- e. *benign*

#### 23. everlasting; continuous
- a. *erratic*
- b. *contentious*
- c. *perpetual*
- d. *vehement*
- e. *unfathomable*

#### 24. deviation from something normal
- a. *degradation*
- b. *disapprobation*
- c. *malignant*
- d. *onslaught*
- e. *aberration*
25. fame
   a. reprimand
   b. notoriety
   c. florid
   d. infallible
   e. umbrage
Writing Activity

To Kill a Mockingbird

Read the following passage from Chapter 10 of the novel. In this scene, the children are faced with a rabid dog, and Atticus must make a decision that will change Scout’s and Jem’s perception of him for the rest of the story. Discuss how the author uses this incident to show the integrity and strength of Atticus and to reflect the theme of the novel.

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.

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.

“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.

“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.

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 see 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 deadest shot in Maycomb County in his time.”
Bravery takes many forms; sometimes showing bravery or courage means that a person faces the unpleasant or the critical without turning away. Many people feel that bravery means fighting violence when they see it. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus surprises Scout and Jem by believing a person should withhold violence and suggests that bravery means more than carrying a gun. In a well-written essay, show how Harper Lee uses character development to provide social commentary of the times concerning bravery.