

Read the following passage carefully:

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view," said Atticus.

"Sir?" I asked, tilting my head in confusion.

"Until you climb into his skin and walk around in it," he explained patiently.

I wasn't quite sure what he meant, but his words lingered in my mind as I sat on the front porch later that evening. I thought about Miss Caroline, my new teacher, who had made me feel small and foolish in front of the entire class. All because I already knew how to read. It didn't seem fair. Why would a teacher, someone who was supposed to encourage learning, make me feel bad about it?

That night, as we sat by the fireplace, I brought it up again.

"Atticus, why do people like Miss Caroline act that way? She didn't even try to understand me."

Atticus put down his book and looked at me thoughtfully.

"Scout, Miss Caroline is new to Maycomb. She comes from a different place with different ideas. She doesn't know our ways yet, and that can be hard. Imagine stepping into a completely unfamiliar world—wouldn't you feel a little lost, too?"

I frowned, trying to picture myself in her shoes. "But she told me to stop reading with you. It felt like she didn't want me to learn."

"She probably didn't mean it that way," Atticus said gently.

"Sometimes, people say things out of fear or frustration, not malice. Think about it—she's in a room full of children she doesn't know, trying to manage everything on her own. That's not easy for anyone."

I hadn't considered that before. Maybe she wasn't trying to be mean. Maybe she was just overwhelmed. "So, she might've been scared, like I was on my first day of school?"

"Exactly," said Atticus, smiling. "Most people are doing the best they can with what they know. If you try to see the world from their point of view, you might find that they're not so different from you after all."

The next day at school, I watched Miss Caroline more closely. I noticed the way she nervously smoothed her dress when the students became too noisy and how she hesitated before

asking questions. She didn't seem mean—she seemed unsure, like someone trying to find her footing in unfamiliar territory.

When I came home, I told Atticus about my observations. "I think you were right, Atticus," I admitted. "She wasn't trying to hurt me. She just didn't know what to do."

Atticus nodded. "That's a good realization, Scout. Remember, most people are nice when you finally see them."

His words stayed with me, planting a seed of understanding in my heart. I realized that empathy wasn't just about feeling sorry for someone—it was about truly understanding them, even when they seemed different or difficult. And with that understanding came kindness, patience, and the ability to see the good in others.

On the basis of your understanding answer the following questions:

1. What is the central lesson Atticus is trying to teach Scout in the passage?

- A. The importance of education
- B. The value of empathy
- C. The need for discipline
- D. The significance of fairness

2. Why does Atticus ask Scout to "climb into someone's skin and walk around in it"?

- A. To understand how others feel and think
- B. To imagine living in a different place
- C. To focus on her own perspective
- D. To practice creative thinking

3. How does Scout's perception of Miss Caroline change after her conversation with Atticus?

- A. She feels more frustrated with her teacher
- B. She starts to understand her teacher's struggles
- C. She becomes indifferent toward her teacher
- D. She decides to confront her teacher

4. What does Atticus mean when he says, "Most people are nice when you finally see them"?

- A. People always act kindly in all situations

B. People are generally good when you understand their perspective

C. It's easy to understand people without much effort

D. People never mean to hurt others

5. Why does Atticus believe Miss Caroline may have acted out of frustration?

A. She disliked Scout personally

B. She didn't know how to handle a new situation

C. She had strict rules to follow

D. She wasn't qualified as a teacher

6. What trait does Atticus demonstrate by encouraging Scout to empathize with Miss Caroline?

A. Strictness

B. Impatience

C. Wisdom

D. Passivity

7. Vocabulary: What does the word "malice" most likely mean in the context of the passage?

A. Hatred or ill will

B. Mistake or error

C. Nervousness or hesitation

D. Kindness or compassion

8. Vocabulary: What does "overwhelmed" mean as used in the passage to describe Miss Caroline?

A. Feeling calm and composed

B. Feeling confused and stressed

C. Being overly confident

D. Being excited and cheerful

9. How does Scout begin to demonstrate empathy in the passage?

A. By confronting Miss Caroline about her behavior

B. By observing Miss Caroline's struggles and understanding her perspective

C. By deciding to avoid Miss Caroline altogether

D. By complaining to Atticus about her teacher

10. What can readers infer about the relationship between Scout and Atticus?

A. It is distant and formal

B. It is warm and based on mutual respect

C. It is filled with constant arguments

D. It is indifferent and unemotional

Answers:

1. B. The value of empathy
2. A. To understand how others feel and think
3. B. She starts to understand her teacher's struggles
4. B. People are generally good when you understand their perspective
5. B. She didn't know how to handle a new situation
6. C. Wisdom
7. A. Hatred or ill will
8. B. Feeling confused and stressed
9. B. By observing Miss Caroline's struggles and understanding her perspective
10. B. It is warm and based on mutual respect