

____CHAPTER 16:

[Jem] Mr. Dolphus Raymond lurched by on his thoroughbred. "Don't see how he stays in the saddle," murmured Jem. "How c'n you stand to get drunk 'fore eight in the morning?"

____CHAPTER 16:

[Scout as narrator] "In a far corner of the square, the Ne_ groes sat quietly in the sun, dining on sardines, crackers, and the more vivid flavors of Nehi Cola. Mr. Dolphus Raymond sat with them.

[Dill] "Jem," said Dill, "he's drinkin' out of a sack."

[Scout as narrator] "Mr. Dolphus Raymond seemed to be so doing: two yellow drugstore straws ran from his mouth to the depths of a brown paper bag."

[JEM] "He's got a Co-Cola bottle full of whiskey in there. That's so's not to upset the ladies. You'll see him sip it all afternoon, he'll step out for a while and fill it back up."

[Dill] "Why's he sittin' with the colored folks?"

[JEM] "Always does. He likes 'em better'n he likes us, I reckon. Lives by himself way down near the county line. He's got a colored woman and all sorts of mixed chillun. Show you some of 'em if we see 'em."

[Dill] "He doesn't look like trash," said Dill."

[Jem] "He's not, he owns all one side of the riverbank down there, and he's from a real old family to boot."

[Dill] "Then why does he do like that?"

[JEM] "That's just his way," said Jem. "They say he never got over his weddin'. He was supposed to marry one of the—the Spencer ladies, I think. They were gonna have a huge weddin', but they didn't—after the rehearsal the bride went upstairs and blew her head off. Shotgun. She pulled the trigger with her toes."

[Dill] "Did they ever know why?"

[JEM] "No," said Jem, "nobody ever knew quite why but Mr. Dolphus. They said it was because she found out about his colored woman, he reckoned he could keep her and get married too. He's been sorta drunk ever since. You know, though, he's real good to those chillun—"

____CHAPTERS 19 (first quote) and 20 (remaining quotes) -- Recall that Dill has left the courthouse crying. Scout follows. Dill is upset about the way Tom Robinson has been treated during the direct examination.

[Dolphus Raymond] "I know what you mean, boy [Dill]," said a voice behind us. We thought it came from the tree-trunk, but it belonged to Mr. Dolphus Raymond. He peered around the trunk at us. "You aren't thin-hided, it just makes you sick, doesn't it?..."

[Scout as narrator] "As Mr. Dolphus Raymond was an evil man I accepted his invitation reluctantly, but I followed Dill. Somehow, I didn't think Atticus would like it if we became friendly with Mr. Raymond, and I knew Aunt Alexandra wouldn't."

[Dolphus Raymond] "Here," he said, offering Dill his paper sack with straws in it. "Take a good sip, it'll quieten you."....

[Scout as narrator] "Dill, you watch out, now," I warned."

[DILL] "Dill released the straws and grinned. 'Scout, it's nothing but Coca-Cola.'"

[Scout as narrator] "Mr. Raymond sat up against the tree-trunk. He had been lying on the grass."

[DOLPHUS RAYMOND] "You aren't thin-hided, it just makes you sick, doesn't it?..."

[SCOUT] "You mean all you drink in that sack's Coca-Cola? Just plain Coca-Cola?"

[DOLPHUS RAYMOND] "Yes ma'am," Mr. Raymond nodded... 'That's all I drink, most of the time.'"

[SCOUT] "Then you just pretend you're half—? I beg your pardon, sir,' I caught myself. 'I didn't mean to be—'"..."Why do you do like you do?"

[DOLPHUS RAYMOND] "Wh—oh yes, you mean why do I pretend? Well, it's very simple,' he said. 'Some folks don't—like the way I live. Now I could say the hell with 'em, I don't care if they don't like it. I do say I don't care if they don't like it, right enough—but I don't say the hell with 'em, see?'....'I try to give 'em a reason, you see. It helps folks if they can latch onto a reason. When I come to town, which is seldom, if I weave a little and drink out of this sack, folks can say Dolphus Raymond's in the clutches of whiskey—that's why he won't change his ways. He can't help himself, that's why he lives the way he does.'"

[Scout] "That ain't honest, Mr. Raymond, making yourself out badder'n you are already--"

[DOLPHUS RAYMOND] "It ain't honest but it's mighty helpful to folks. Secretly, Miss Finch, I'm not much of a drinker, but you see they could never, never understand that I live like I do because that's the way I want to live..."

[Scout] "But why had he entrusted us with his deepest secret? I asked him why."

[DOLPHUS RAYMOND] "Because you're children and you can understand it,' he said, 'and because I heard that one—' He jerked his head at Dill: 'Things haven't caught up with that one's instinct yet. Let him get a little older and he won't get sick and cry. Maybe things'll strike him as being—not quite right, say, but he won't cry, not when he gets a few years on him.'..."

'Cry about the simple hell people give other people—without even thinking. Cry about the hell white people give colored folks, without even stopping to think that they're people, too.'"

1 **Line 1** "lurched" "thoroughbred" (*Word choice*)

What do these words suggest about Dolphus Raymond?

2 **Chapter 16** Why does HL choose to have Jem give the information about Dolphus in *dialogue* with Dill rather than just have Scout report it?

3 What is Jem's opinion about why DR drinks 'out of a sack'?

4 Why does Dill say, "He doesn't look like trash." (*Word choice*)

5 What is the evidence that DR is wealthy and 'well-bred'?

6 What's your opinion of Jem's tale of DR's white fiancé? Who might have told such a tale in his hearing?

7 Scout calls DR "an evil man". What is the evidence from the end of the section from chapter 16 that suggests this is not the case? Why does Jem find this surprising and worthy of mention?

8 'You aren't thin-hided, it just makes you sick, doesn't it?'"... What is he referring to? How are Dill and DR alike?

9 **Section in bold and italics** Summarise in your own words.

10 Why is DR honest with the children?

11 **Read the whole section** - 'Things haven't caught up with that one's instinct yet... when he gets a few years on him.'

What does DR mean? How does this fit with the themes of racism and growing up?

12 "Cry about the simple hell people give other people—" Do you think that DR has cried in this way? Why?

- We find out about DR's character through town gossip as reported by Jem.
- What are the two legends about DR which are probably not true?
- We can infer Scout's opinion, which has been influenced by AA, Atticus and the 'ladies' of the town.
- DR's dialogue reveals a great deal. HL creates a situation where he is uniquely honest about himself.
- Could such a character exist anywhere else but Maycomb?
- What makes him seem comic initially?
- Do you think he is more comic/tragic/weak? Why

Write an essay on how Harper Lee uses even a minor character, such as Dolphus Raymond, to explore the theme of racism in TKAM.

What techniques does she employ to bring the character to life and use him to explore the theme?

Introduction

- Author and title
- Use words from the task to explain what the essay is about.
- Mention techniques used
- Personal response and other background information.

VERY BRIEF SUMMARY if you choose. For example:

Though Dolphus Raymond is a minor character in To Kill a Mockingbird, he is memorable because of the strange deception he uses in order to be allowed to live as he wishes. He is a wealthy, white man from an old Maycomb family who prefers to live with his black wife and children and to socialize with black people in preference to white. In the segregated state of Alabama this is not acceptable or understandable so to give the white townsfolk a way to explain this he pretends to be alcoholic.

Point One Topic Sentence (about dialogue and the narrator)

In dialogue with Dill, Jem explains who DR is, as the white people of Maycomb see him.

Evidence eg. "*He's got a Co-Cola bottle full of whiskey in there. That's so's not to upset the ladies. You'll see him sip it all afternoon*" When Dill asks why he's sitting with the black people Jem answers, "Always does. He likes 'em better'n he

likes us, I reckon. Dills response tells us everything we need to know to explain DR's behavior. He says, 'He doesn't look like trash.'

Explain the effect (Analyse) To Dill it seems that the only people who would choose to live this way would be 'white trash', using a word to describe people as rubbish - those with no hope and no respectability. This simple exchange between the boys encapsulates the town hierarchy and how rigid and all pervasive these ideas are. It is really effective to have Scout, the innocent narrator, listen in on this dialogue and for us to experience the unselfconscious 'parroting' of the adult responses of the racist town.

Point Two. Topic Sentence (making us like DR through description and jokes)

In her description of what DR does and in his dialogue with the children HL suggests that he's a relaxed, informal man who enjoys a bit of fun.

Evidence: When the children speak to him he has been 'lying on the grass' and he leans against a tree. DR giggles when Dill realizes that all he has been drinking is Cola and asks them not to tell on him "It'd ruin my reputation if you did." This is funny as he wants to keep his 'reputation' as a drunk! He answers their questions honestly and explains his behavior, "they (the townsfolk) could never understand that I live like I do because that's the way I want to live."

Explain the effect (analyse) HL makes us like DR because of his manner and his little self-deprecating jokes. We enjoy the surprise the he has fooled the town and us.

Point Three Topic Sentence (about the use of contrast and structure)

Topic Sentence *It is a relief for the reader to be distracted from the grim business of the trial of Tom Robinson, an innocent black man who will be found guilty. However, we begin to see the tragedy of DR's choices and the horrible situation he is in.*

EVIDENCE

His children: 'real sad' 'just in-betweens' 'shipped two of his up north' Page 176

look at the wordchoice of real sad, just and shipped

His sensitivity; 'Cry about the simple hell people give other people-without even thinking. Cry about the hell white people give colored folks, without even stopping to think that they're people, too.

EXPLAIN (ANALYSE) EFFECT By placing this exchange in the middle of the trial, HL uses structure to highten the effect of the revelation about DR and to give yet another example of how corrosive racism is in Maycomb. Also by making DR likable and sensitive she forces us to see the situation in yet another light.