

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

***To Kill a Mockingbird* Chapters 17-20 Tom Robinson's Trial**

In order to fully understand these chapters, it is helpful to understand the jargon, or specific vocabulary, used in court.

- In court, all people have the right to legal **counsel** (lawyers to represent them).
- The **plaintiff** is the person/group who brings a case against another in court. They accuse them of something.
 - Their lawyer is the **prosecuting attorney**. All together, this group is known as the **prosecution**.
- The **defendant** is the person/group being accused of something. They are defending themselves from punishment.
 - Their lawyer is the **defense attorney**. All together, this group is known as the **defense**.
- During court, a **judge** presides over the courtroom proceedings.
 - First, they ask the defendant how they **plead: guilty or not guilty**.
- The attorneys give opening **arguments** to the **jury**, a panel of people who decide the **verdict** (outcome) of the case.
- The bulk of a courtroom trial is **examination** and **cross-examination** of **witnesses**, people who saw or have information regarding the crime.
- At the end of examinations, attorneys give **closing arguments**.

Identify the following people's names and information for the Tom Robinson case.

Judge: Judge Taylor

Court Reporter: Bert

Prosecution:

Plaintiff: Mayella Ewell

Prosecuting attorney: Mr. Gilmer

What crime is the plaintiff claiming the defendant committed?

Mayella is accusing Tom Robinson of raping her.

Defense:

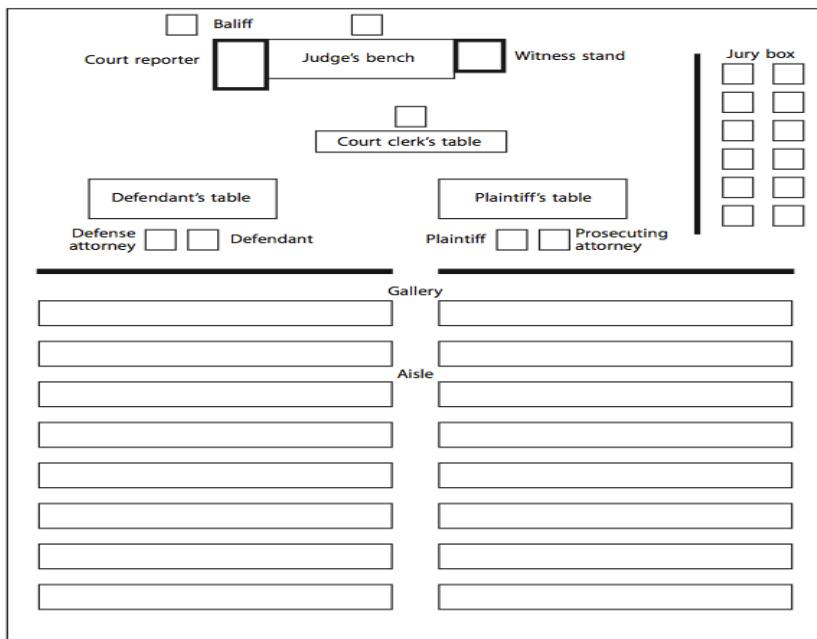
Defendant: Tom Robinson

Defense attorney: Atticus Finch

What is the defendant's **alibi** (reason he could not commit the crime)?

His left arm is not functional. He could not have strangled or beat Mayella on the right side of her face.

Directions: Examine the diagram of the layout of a traditional courtroom.



Witnesses:

- 1) Heck Tate 2) Bob Ewell
- 3) Mayella Ewell 4) Tom Robinson

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- The bulk of a courtroom trial is _____ and _____ of _____, people who saw or have information regarding the crime.
- At the end of examinations, attorneys give _____.

Identify the following people's names and information for the Tom Robinson case.

Judge: _____

Court Reporter: _____

Prosecution:

Plaintiff: _____

Prosecuting attorney: _____

What crime is the plaintiff claiming the defendant committed?

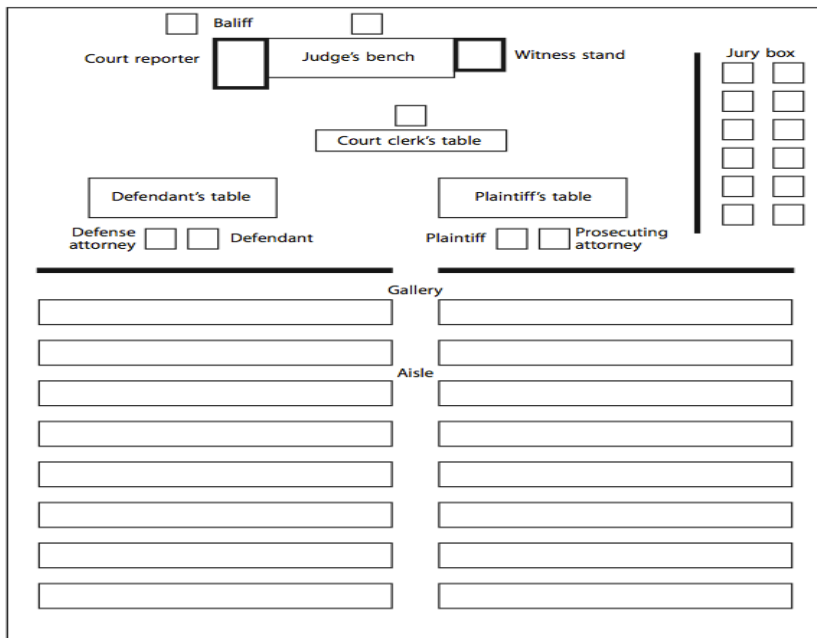
Defense:

Defendant: _____

Defense attorney: _____

What is the defendant's **alibi** (reason he could not commit the crime)?

Directions: Examine the diagram of the layout of a traditional courtroom.



Witnesses:

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

Trial Graphic Organizer

Directions: While groups are presenting the information from their chapter, identify and describe each witness (under their name), record the main points of their testimony, describe the children's reactions, and then explain how you reacted.

Witness	Testimony	Children's Reaction(s)	My Reaction(s)
1. Heck Tate			
2. Bob Ewell			
3. Mayella Ewell			
4. Tom Robinson			

Chapters 16-19: Reviewing the Witness Testimony

Suggested Responses

General: “Witnesses had been led by the nose, as asses are”—Scout

Witness	Testimony	Children’s Reaction(s)	My Reaction(s)
1. Heck Tate Sheriff who gives the police report on the case	Called to Ewell house by Bob Ewell, who said his daughter Mayella had been raped. When he arrived, he saw that Mayella was bruised and beaten on the right side of her face; she had finger marks on her neck. She told him that Tom Robinson raped her. No doctor was called.	Jem and Scout become hopeful, p. 226—“Atticus was proceeding amiably...Gone was the terror... everything would come out all right.” Scout is bored; thinks nothing has happened.	Police officer trying to do his job—I sometimes wish he could have done more at the time of the crime and while on the stand.
2. Bob Ewell Mayella’s Father he called the police portrayed as rude, vulgar, smug, low class; unemployed; and a drunk	He was out collecting kindling. When he heard screaming, he returned home and saw Tom Robinson raping his daughter. Tom ran away, and Bob went to get the sheriff. He said he didn’t call the doctor, as he was not needed and was too expensive. Atticus has him write his name to show that he is left-handed.	They are suspicious of Bob Ewell; it seems as if Atticus could win the case. Jem says “We got him!” implying that Atticus has enough proof already that Bob is guilty; not Tom. Scout sees how Bob could do it (since he’s left-handed), but wonders if Tom is also left-handed.	I hate that Bob is so disrespectful to the lawyers and dare to make jokes during what should be such a serious time for him. He’s saying his daughter was raped, but makes jokes about whether or not he’s her father.
3. Mayella Ewell 19 year old girl who accuses Tom Robinson of raping her appears clean, cares about her appearance. Speaks in slang, uneducated. lonely, resentful, and terrified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked Tom to break up a chiffarobe for a nickel. • He then grabbed her from behind, choked her, and raped her. • Atticus points out that Tom is crippled—his left arm is a full foot shorter than his right. • She starts changing her story. • Atticus gets her to admit that her father drinks a lot. • She angrily refuses to answer questions and freaks out at the end. 	Scout realizes that her father is building a case against the Ewells’ homelife; Jem watches the testimony carefully and explains everything to Dill.	I also feel bad for Mayella. It makes me angry that someone who is so taken advantage of by her father would then take advantage of Tom.
4. Tom Robinson 25 year-old married man with 3 children; courteous, respectful, generous, good worker, crippled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayella asked him to break up a chiffarobe last spring. • She asked him to come in the house to reach something off a high dresser. • As he was doing that, she wrapped her arms around him and kissed him. • He tried to get her to stop, and when he saw her father through the window, he ran out. • He ran because he was scared, but it made him look guilty. Tom Robinson was previously jailed for disorderly conduct (but he was the victim and served because he couldn’t pay the fine). 	Dill begins sobbing uncontrollably, points out the prosecutor’s unequal treatment of witnesses—particularly Tom Robinson.—points out Atticus is different in that he doesn’t treat people differently on the stand.	I feel bad for Tom, and it makes me so uncomfortable when Mr. Gilmer is horribly rude.