

To Kill a Mockingbird Study Guide

2. A *foil* is someone or something that, by a striking contrast, reveals the characteristics of someone or something else. In Chapter 17 Scout provides a description of the Ewell's house and yard. What objects act as a foil to the junk strewn around the Ewell's yard? What might the presence of these objects reveal about the character of Mayella Ewell?

3. When Bob Ewell refers to Mayella he uses language like "screamin' like a stuck hog," "ruttin' on my Mayella," and "lyin' on the floor squallin'." What does the use of language like this reveal about Bob Ewell's character? About his feelings toward Mayella?

4. There is a terrible *irony* in the fact that Bob Ewell considers himself better than his black neighbors. List two ways the author shows this irony.

5. Mayella Ewell takes offense to Atticus's politeness toward her. What might this indicate about Mayella?