

TKAM Vocabulary Chapter 1 (29 words)

1. acquainted

having fair knowledge of

According to neighborhood legend, when the younger Radley boy was in

*his teens he became **acquainted** with some of the Cunninghams from Old*

2. alien

from another place or part of the world

The shutters and doors of the Radley house were closed on Sundays,

*another thing **alien** to Maycomb's ways: closed doors meant illness*

and cold weather only.

3. assuage

provide physical relief, as from pain

*When it healed, and Jem's fears of never being able to play football were **assuaged**, he was seldom self-conscious about his injury.*

4. concede

give over

*It was all right to shut him up, Mr. Radley **conceded**, but insisted that Boo not be charged with anything: he was not a criminal.*

5. contentment

happiness with one's situation in life

Thereafter the summer passed in

*routine **contentment**.*

6. dictum

an authoritative declaration

So Simon, having

*forgotten his teacher's **dictum** on the possession of human chattels,*

bought three slaves and with their aid established a homestead on

the banks of the Alabama River some forty miles above Saint

7. domicile

housing that someone is living in

*Sarum, an enormous and confusing tribe **domiciled** in the northern*

part of the county, and they formed the nearest thing to a gang ever

seen in Maycomb.

8. eccentric

conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual

*Dill as a pocket Merlin, whose head teemed with **eccentric** plans,*

strange longings, and quaint fancies.

9. entity

that which is perceived to have its own distinct existence

*The Radley Place was inhabited by an unknown **entity** the*

mere description of whom was enough to make us behave for days on end;

10. imprudent

not wise

*The Haverfords had dispatched Maycomb's leading blacksmith in a misunderstanding arising from the alleged wrongful detention of a mare, were **imprudent** enough to do it in the presence of three witnesses, and insisted that the-son-of-a-bitch-had-it-coming-to-him was a good enough defense for anybody.*

11. malevolent

wishing or appearing to wish evil to others

*Inside the house lived a **malevolent** phantom.*

12. morbid

suggesting the horror of death and decay

Once the

*town was terrorized by a series of **morbid** nocturnal events: people's chickens and household pets were found mutilated; although the culprit was Crazy Addie, who eventually drowned himself in Barker's Eddy, people still looked at the Radley Place, unwilling to discard their initial suspicions.*

13. nebulous

lacking definite form or limits

Boo's transition from the basement to back home was **nebulous** in Jem's memory.

14. nocturnal

belonging to or active during the night

Once the

*town was terrorized by a series of morbid **nocturnal** events: people's chickens and household pets were found mutilated; although the culprit was Crazy Addie, who eventually drowned himself in Barker's Eddy, people still looked at the Radley Place, unwilling to discard their initial suspicions.*

15. persecution

causing someone to suffer

*In England, Simon was irritated by the **persecution** of*

those who called themselves Methodists at the hands of their more liberal brethren, and as Simon called himself a Methodist, he worked his way across the Atlantic to Philadelphia, thence to Jamaica, thence to Mobile, and up the Saint Stephens.

16. piety

righteousness by virtue of being pious

All we had was Simon Finch, a fur-trapping

apothecary from Cornwall whose **piety** was exceeded only by his stinginess.

17. predilection

a predisposition in favor of something

The Radleys, welcome anywhere in town, kept to themselves, a

***predilection** unforgivable in Maycomb.*

18. profane

grossly irreverent toward what is held to be sacred

The town decided something had to be done; Mr. Conner said

he knew who each and every one of them was, and he was bound and

determined they wouldn't get away with it, so the boys came before the

probate judge on charges of disorderly conduct, disturbing the

*peace, assault and battery, and using abusive and **profane** language*

in the presence and hearing of a female.

19. profound

situated at or extending to great depth

Not Guilty to first-degree murder, so there was nothing much Atticus

could do for his clients except be present at their departure, an

*occasion that was probably the beginning of my father's **profound***

distaste for the practice of criminal law.

20. pulpit

a platform raised to give prominence to the person on it

They did little, but enough to be discussed by the

*town and publicly warned from three **pulpits**: they hung around the*

barbershop; they rode the bus to Abbottsville on Sundays and went to

the picture show; they attended dances at the county's riverside

gambling hell, the Dew-Drop Inn & Fishing Camp; they experimented with

stumphole whiskey.

21. quaint

attractively old-fashioned

Dill as a pocket Merlin, whose head teemed with eccentric plans,

*strange longings, and **quaint** fancies.*

22. repertoire

the range of skills in a particular field or occupation

*But by the end of August our **repertoire** was vapid from countless*

reproductions, and it was then that Dill gave us the idea of making

23. seldom

not often

When it healed, and Jem's fears of never being able to play football were assuaged, he was **seldom** self-conscious about his injury.

24. stealthy

marked by quiet and caution and secrecy

Any

stealthy small crimes committed in Maycomb were his work.

25. stinginess

a lack of generosity

All we had was Simon Finch, a fur-trapping apothecary from Cornwall whose piety was exceeded only by his **stinginess**.

cheap, frugal

26. taciturn

habitually reserved and uncommunicative

Their sister Alexandra was

the Finch who remained at the Landing: she married a **taciturn** man

who spent most of his time lying in a hammock by the river wondering

if his trot-lines were full.

27. tyrannical

characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule

She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had

felt her **tyrannical** presence as long as I could remember.

28. unsullied

free from blemishes

Atticus's office in

the courthouse contained little more than a hat rack, a spittoon, a

*checkerboard and an **unsullied** Code of Alabama.*

29. vapid

lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

*But by the end of August our repertoire was **vapid** from countless*