Summary/Analysis

*To Kill a Mockingbird* By Harper Lee

For every chapter, you will need to complete a chapter summary and analysis. You will write one paragraph of summary, and one paragraph of analysis.

**Summary:**

This should cover major events, what the characters do, and any new characters or new information you learn. A summary needs to be at least seven sentences long. Here is an example from Chapter 1:

The story is narrated by a young girl named Jean Louise Finch, who is almost always called by her nickname, Scout. Scout starts to explain the circumstances that led to the broken arm that her older brother, Jem, sustained many years earlier. She begins by recounting her family history. As a successful lawyer, Scout’s Father Atticus makes a solid living in Maycomb, a tired, poor, old town in the grips of the Great Depression. He lives with Jem and Scout on Maycomb’s main residential street. Their cook, an old black woman named Calpurnia, helps to raise the children. In the Summer of 1933, when Jem is nearly ten and Scout almost six, a peculiar boy named Charles Baker Harris, nicknamed Dill, moves in next door.

**Analysis:**

Analysis paragraphs should also be seven sentences long. Analysis is LEVEL 2, which means that it should all be inferences (your own thoughts) about the text. Analysis should answer any of the following questions:

* Why would the author include this event?
* How do you believe the characters changed or grew?
* What universal truths were revealed in this chapter?
* How was a conflict introduced or solved?
* What was the most important part of this chapter?
* What strategies (diction, figurative language, dialect, imagery, irony, suspense, foreshadowing, flashback) did the author use to convey her ideas?
* What can you predict will happen next?

Structurally, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is circular: the story begins where it ends. The first line of the novel introduces Jem’s broken arm, and the novel then flashes back to cover the events leading up to his accident. The narrator uses this device to provide background for the Finch family. I predict the story will also end with Jem’s broken arm. Jem, Scout, and Dill are the major characters in the first chapter. They are all children and have active imaginations. One of the big ideas of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the process of growing up and developing a more mature perspective on life. Right now, the children are still young, but I predict that over the course of the novel, they will have to become more mature because of things that happen to them. So, far, they all speak with Southern dialect, and the author uses figurative language and imagery to make the setting of the novel, Maycomb, very vivid to the reader.