To Kill A Mockingbird Coaching: Ch. 5-9

***Use this document to read with more direction and to facilitate better conversations in class.*  
Instructions for Conversations:  
In pairs or a group, take a few minutes to go over Chapters 5-9 as a whole. For each chapter, spend 1-2 minutes:**

* Summarizing the plot – make sure everyone understands what’s going on.
* Answering any basic questions you might have.

**Then, you’ve got some options.**

* For a more mild coaching session, choose 2-3 chapters to discuss below. Consider the BIG QUESTION at the bottom. Take a shot at it!
* For a more spicy coaching session you can:
  + **a)** Answer every questions for each chapter (go wide!)
  + **b)** focus your allotted time on any one question (go deep!)

**The Questions**

**Chapter 5**1. What is the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law? How does Maudie and Scout’s discussion about different kinds of Baptists explore that difference?  
  
2. Why does Jem declare at the end of the chapter, “I thought I wanted to be a lawyer but I ain’t so sure now”?  
  
**Chapter 6**  
1. Scout states in this chapter, “It was then, I suppose, that Jem and I first began to part company.” What prompts her to draw this conclusion? What does she mean? As you continue to read the novel, look for evidence that Scout and Jem are growing apart.  
 **Chapter 7**1. Why does Jem cry at the end of Chapter 7? What does Jem understand about Boo and Mr. Radley that he did not understand before? Find evidence in the text to support your answer  
  
**Chapter 8**1. What does the town’s response to the fire at Miss Maudie’s house reveal about Maycomb’s universe of obligation in this chapter? A community’s universe of obligation includes the circle of individuals and groups toward whom obligations are owed, to whom rules apply, and whose injuries call for amends. In other words, a community’s universe of obligation consists of those its members believe are worthy of respect and protection

**Chapter 9**1. Discussing the Tom Robinson case with Uncle Jack, Atticus refers to “Maycomb’s usual disease.” What does he mean? Why doesn’t he suffer from it?

2. What does “nigger-lover”\* mean to the residents of Maycomb? Why is it such a powerful insult?  
  
*\*I have chosen to include this word in order to honestly communicate the harshness of the bigoted language. In your discussions, please use the phrase “n-word.”*