Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Close reading passage: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

“The Radley Place fascinated Dill. In spite of our warnings and explanations it drew him as the moon draws water, but drew him no nearer than the light-pole on the corner, a safe distance from the Radley gate. There he would stand, his arm around the fat pole, staring and wondering.

The Radley Place jutted into a sharp curve beyond our house. Walking south, one faced its porch; the sidewalk turned and ran beside the lot. The house was low, was once white with a deep front porch and green shutters, but had long ago darkened to the color of the slate-gray yard around it. Rain-rotted shingles dropped over the eaves of the veranda; oak trees kept the sun away. The remains of a picket drunkenly guarded the front yard – a “swept” yard that was never swept – where Johnson grass and rabbit-tobacco grew in abundance.

Inside the house lived a malevolent phantom. People said he existed, but Jem and I had never seen him. People said he went out at night when the moon was down and peeped in windows. When people’s azaleas froze in a cold snap, it was because he had breathed on them. Any stealthy small crimes committed in Maycomb were his work. 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. A Negro would not pass the Radley Place at night; he would cut across to the sidewalk opposite and whistle as he walked. The Maycomb school grounds adjoined the back of the Radley lot; from the Radley chicken yard tall pecan trees shook their fruit into the schoolyard, but the nuts lay untouched by the children: Radley pecans would kill you. A baseball hit into the Radley yard was a lost ball and no questions asked.”

1. What age can you infer the narrator (Scout) and her friend Dill are? What evidence do you have from the text?

2. Define the following words:

* Eaves
* Veranda
* Malevolent
* Phantom
* Azaleas
* Stealthy
* Morbid
* Nocturnal
* Culprit

3. Explain the personification of “The remains of a picket drunkenly guarded the front yard . . .” What does that describe?

4. What type of person do you think really lives inside the Radley Place?

5. How is the theme, “People often judge others” illustrated in this text? Give an example and explain.

**Open response:**

Explain the MOOD that is created about the Radley Place. Use multiple examples from the text (quotes) and explain with strong commentary how these descriptions help the reader to understand the setting and the feelings associated with it.

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