

A Time to Kill

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–3

1 Answer the following questions. Try not to look at the book.

- Why do Billy Ray and Pete throw Tonya off a bridge?
.....
- What condition is Tonya in when she is taken to hospital?
.....
- How does Carl Lee plan his attack on Billy Ray and Pete Cobb?
.....
- How does Sheriff Ozzie convince Pete to describe what Billy Ray and he did to Tonya?
.....
- What kind of weapon does Carl Lee use to kill Billy Ray and Pete? Where does he get it?
.....
- Why is Carl Lee's case more difficult for Jake than Lester's case has been?
.....
- What happens to Deputy Looney during the shooting?
.....

2 Put these events in the right order.

- Carl Lee informs Jake about his plans for Billy Ray and Pete. ☐
- Billy Ray and Pete rape Tonya. ☐
- Tonya is taken to hospital. ☐
- Carl Lee murders his daughter's rapists. ☐
- Carl Lee's brother, Lester, comes back. ☐
- Lucien promises to help Jake with the case. ☐
- Billy Ray and Pete are arrested. ☐
- Carl Lee and Lester buy an M16. ☐
- The judge rules Billy Ray and Pete will be in jail till the trial begins. ☐
- Carl Lee is taken to prison. ☐
- Jake promises to defend Carl Lee. ☐
- Jake and his family are threatened. ☐

3 Who are these people?

- Billy Ray Cobb
- Pete Willard
- Carl Lee Hailey
- Willie Hastings
- Ozzie Walls
- Lucien Wilbanks
- Ethel Twitty

Chapters 4–6

4 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? If they are false, correct them.

- The grand jury decides that Carl Lee must stand trial for murder. ☐
- Buckley is rude, unpleasant and self-important in front of the cameras. ☐
- Stump Sisson is a friend of Bill Ray Cobb. ☐
- The members of the Klan like the idea of using the Hailey case to bring together all Southern whites who hate black people. ☐
- Billy Ray Cobb's grandfather is a member of the Klan. ☐

5 Who says these things? Who to? Explain the situation.

- "When is the nigger's trial?"
.....
- "Why don't you get a downstairs office?"
.....
- "The sooner the better."
.....
- "I've got to get out of here, and fast."
.....
- "And if I don't think he was insane at the time of the shooting?"
.....

Chapters 7–9

6 Fill in the gaps in the sentences with the words below.

arrest prison bomb friends dynamite
pick-up attack

On the night of July 11, the sheriff hears that the Klan are going to (a) Jake's house. Jake moves his family to safety very quickly and the police (b) the Klan man who is going to do the job. There is (c) in his suitcase. Ozzie beats the man with his stick and puts the (d) between his legs. The man takes the bomb apart. Then Ozzie beats the man again and the man tells him where his (e) are. The police find another Klan man sleeping in a red (f) near the house. Both Klan members have to go to (g)

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Chapters 10–12

7 Answer these questions.

- a Why do busloads of black people come into Clanton?
.....
- b What happens to Stump Sisson?
.....
- c Why does the sheriff call in the National Guard?
.....
- d How do Jake and his friends prepare for the trial?
.....
- e Why are twenty people on the list of possible jurors told that they need not become jurors?
.....
- f What question does Jake ask the possible jurors and why is this question so clever?
.....

8 Put these events in the right order.

- a The Klan attacks Ellen. ☐
- b Lucien explains Bass's "rape" of the seventeen-year-old. ☐
- c Buckley tells the court that Bass was charged with the rape of a 17-year-old girl. ☐
- d Jake is told what happened to Ellen. ☐
- e The Klan burns down Jake's house. ☐
- f A Klan member tries to shoot Jake. But he hits a soldier instead. ☐
- g Dr. W.T. Bass gives evidence. ☐

9 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a Clanton seems to be a different city. ☐
- b There was no interest from the media in the case. ☐
- c The jury seems to be interested in the technical information provided by Rufus Buckley during the trial. ☐
- d Jake wanted to simplify things while questioning the possible jury members. ☐
- e Billy Ray's mother was honestly affected by her son's death. ☐

Chapters 13–14

10 Use these phrases to write true or false sentences about the story. Then ask your partners to find the wrong ones.

- a tears in their eyes
- b professionally acceptable
- c forty-sixth trial
- d not guilty by reason of insanity
- e Buckley's medical witness
- f can never have children
- g a ten-year-old child
- h looked tired and unhappy
- i Adams Street
- j final speech

11 Answer these questions.

- a How does Ellen feel after such a terrible experience?
.....
- b Why is Danny Broker in a mental hospital?
.....
- c How does Jake discredit Dr. Rodeheaver?
.....
- d Why does Jake visit Wanda Wornack?
.....
- e How does Jake feel after he wins the trial and Carl Lee is set free?
.....

After reading

12 What will happen to these people? What will they do now?

Carl Lee Hailey
Tonya Hailey
Jake Brigance
Ellen Roark
Rufus Buckley

13 Express your opinion.

- a You are Jake. You go to see Carla after the trial. Talk to her about what happened and the way you feel.
- b You are Carl Lee. You are home now. Talk to Gwen about the way you felt and why you did what you did.

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1 Fill in the blanks with the correct character from the story.

- a is raped by two white men.
- b is the girl's mother.
- c murders his daughter's rapists.
- d is Jake's secretary.
- e is the first black sheriff.
- f is one of the rapists, whose brother looks for revenge.
- g is the prosecutor.
- h is Carl Lee's lawyer.
- i is Jake's former employer.
- j is Carl Lee's brother.

2 Match the two halves of the sentences to make true statements.

- a Harry Rex Vonner specializes
- b The trial will start on
- c Stump Sisson is
- d Jake
- e Harry Rex Vonner
- f Carl Lee needs to be released
- g Deputy Looney
- h The burning of crosses
- i The Black churches are collecting money
- j W. T. Bass
 - 1) the Ku Klux Klan leader in Mississippi.
 - 2) July 22.
 - 3) meets Buckley at Noose's office.
 - 4) is one of the methods used by the Klan.
 - 5) in difficult divorce cases.
 - 6) to help his wife Gwen.
 - 7) expects to win by bribing the jury.
 - 8) is a retired psychiatrist.
 - 9) lost his leg after the shooting.
 - 10) to help Carl Lee's family.

3 Are these statements right (✓) or wrong (X)?
Correct the wrong ones.

- a Ozzie took two Klan members into custody the night of July 11. ☐
- b Ellen Roark is a lawyer. ☐
- c Jake and Ellen will work together. ☐
- d Ellen believes insanity is a possible platform for Carl Lee's defense. ☐
- e Reverend Agee cared deeply about Carl Lee. ☐

4 Who are these sentences about? Explain your answer.

- a He is very helpful and truly believes Carl Lee should not be blamed for what he did as he would have done the same.
- b She wants to acquire more experience.
- c He is assisted by Ellen.
- d He is burnt to death.
- e He generally speaks too much and asks too many questions.
- f He signs a written document confessing that he has raped Tonya.
- g His brother is one of the rapists.
- h The Klan wants to kill him.
- i He does not regret what he has done.
- j He is not a very reliable witness for the defense.

5 Choose the correct answer.

- a Why does Ethel leave work?
 - 1) She is threatened by the KKK.
 - 2) Her husband is killed by the Klan.
 - 3) She is tired of not being well paid.
- b How does Rufus Buckley discredit Dr. Bass?
 - 1) By informing the jury that he had been charged with the rape of a 17-year-old girl.
 - 2) By informing the jury about his drinking.
 - 3) By mentioning the fact that he was a widower.
- c What is Lucien's explanation of Rufus' accusation about Dr. Bass?
 - 1) He was young and inexperienced and fell in love with the wrong girl.
 - 2) Dr. Bass was in love with the girl who was the daughter of a judge in Dallas. They got married and had a baby boy.
 - 3) He was drunk and took advantage of an adolescent.
- d Why did the gunman fire his gun at Jake even though he did not have a clear shot?
 - 1) He had a job that had to be done no matter what.
 - 2) He was threatened to do so.
 - 3) Because he was drunk and wanted some excitement.
- e Why did Dr. Bass consider Carl Lee insane?
 - 1) Carl Lee could not tell the difference between right and wrong at the moment of the shooting.
 - 2) Because his daughter had been raped and he was mentally unstable.
 - 3) Because he had talked to Carl Lee and noticed he was mentally unstable.