Comprehension Questions

Directions: These questions are arranged in chronological order along with the novel. Read the questions first. As you read, keep these questions handy and write your answers down as you read. List the page number you found each answer for the questions. Make sure you use correct punctuation when quoting the novel.

1. What details in the description of Aunt Alexandra’s arrival foreshadow that she is planning on staying for an extended period of time? (p#)____

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2. Why do you think Atticus has his sister come to stay with the children? What are the denotative and connotative meanings of his remark that “the summer’s going to be a hot one?” (p#)___

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3. What do you think Scout means when she says that Aunt Alexandra had “river-boat, boarding-school manners” and “was born in the objective case”? What do her remarks reveal about her feelings towards her aunt? (p#)____

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4. Describe the way Aunt Alexandra views other people. How does Scout believe she defines “Fine Folks”? Does Scout agree or disagree with her? (p#)____

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5. Aunt Alexandra’s arrival causes Scout to think about the history of Maycomb and its residents. Summarize Scout’s view of her county’s history and social systems. (p#)____

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6. What do you think Scout means when she says, “Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me.” (p#)____

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7. How does Aunt Alexandra believe Atticus has failed as a parent? Do you agree with her? (p#)____

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8. How do Scout’s actions during her father’s speech about her being the product of “several generations of gentle breeding” directly challenge what her father is saying? How does she react to his criticism of her behavior? How does Atticus respond when he realizes the effect that his words are having on his daughter? (p#)____

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9. What do you think Scout means when she concludes the chapter with the observation, “I know what he was trying to do, but Atticus was only a man. It takes a woman to do that kind of work”? (p#)____

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