**Literary Circle Prep Sheet Examples**

**Sample questions:**

1. Infer what Burris Ewell’s language reveals about him.
2. Compare Walter Cunningham and Burris Ewell.
3. Predict whether Scout’s compromise with Atticus will be successful.
4. Speculate the role of the Radleys in the novel.

**Sample “Essential Excerpt”**

To Kill a Mockingbird is set in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. Because it is a small town, families know each other well. This is unclear to newcomers, however, and Miss Caroline Fisher, Scout’s teacher, clearly does not understand the social dynamics of the town. **When Miss Caroline offers Walter Cunningham a quarter for lunch, Scout explains, “ He’s a Cunningham […] The Cunninghams never took anything they can’t pay back […] You’re shamin’ him, Miss Caroline. Walter hasn’t got a quarter at home to bring you, and you can’t use any stovewood” (Lee 20-21).** This passage is essential to explain the cultural setting of Maycomb. Scout is merely attempting to explain why Walter refuses Miss Caroline’s money, but because Miss Caroline is unfamiliar with the families in Maycomb, she misunderstands Scout’s intentions and punishes her for being disrespectful.

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