**Term 5 Week 4 Lesson 1 Y8: The Fire**

Do now:

1. What do Jem, Scout and Dill do in chapter 6?
2. What does Jem loose in chapter 6?
3. What does Mr Radley do in chapter 6 which scares the children?

https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=YW5udXJpc2xhbWljc2Nob29sLm9yZ3xzaXN0ZXIta2F0ZWx5bnxneDo2NjVmZmE1NzNjNjc4NWM

Please read chapters 7 and 8, or see the chapter summaries below.

Chapter summary 7 and 8:

### Summary: Chapter 7

A few days later, after school has begun for the year, Jem tells Scout that he found the pants mysteriously mended and hung neatly over the fence. When they come home from school that day, they find another present hidden in the knothole: a ball of gray twine. They leave it there for a few days, but no one takes it, so they claim it for their own.

Unsurprisingly, Scout is as unhappy in second grade as she was in first, but Jem promises her that school gets better the farther along one goes. Late that fall, another present appears in the knothole—two figures carved in soap to resemble Scout and Jem. The figures are followed in turn by chewing gum, a spelling bee medal, and an old pocket watch. The next day, Jem and Scout find that the knothole has been filled with cement. When Jem asks Mr. Radley (Nathan Radley, Boo’s brother) about the knothole the following day, Mr. Radley replies that he plugged the knothole because the tree is dying.

### Summary: Chapter 8

For the first time in years, Maycomb endures a real winter. There is even light snowfall, an event rare enough for school to be closed. Jem and Scout haul as much snow as they could from Miss Maudie’s yard to their own. Since there is not enough snow to make a real snowman, they build a small figure out of dirt and cover it with snow. They make it look like Mr. Avery, an unpleasant man who lives down the street. The figure’s likeness to Mr. Avery is so strong that Atticus demands that they disguise it. Jem places Miss Maudie’s sunhat on its head and sticks her hedge clippers in its hands, much to her chagrin.

That night, Atticus wakes Scout and helps her put on her bathrobe and coat and goes outside with her and Jem. Miss Maudie’s house is on fire. The neighbors help her save her furniture, and the fire truck arrives in time to stop the fire from spreading to other houses, but Miss Maudie’s house burns to the ground. In the confusion, someone drapes a blanket over Scout. When Atticus later asks her about it, she has no idea who put it over her. Jem realizes that Boo Radley put it on her, and he reveals the whole story of the knothole, the presents, and the mended pants to Atticus. Atticus tells them to keep it to themselves, and Scout, realizing that Boo was just behind her, nearly throws up.

Despite having lost her house, Miss Maudie is cheerful the next day. She tells the children how much she hated her old home and that she is already planning to build a smaller house and plant a larger garden. She says that she wishes she had been there when Boo put the blanket on Scout to catch him in the act.

The following questions need answering once you have read the extract and annotations.

1. What happens to Miss Maudie’s house?
2. What verbs are used to make the fire seem aggressive?
3. What does Scout compare the fire to?
4. How is bestial imagery used?
5. What do we learn about Atticus’s character?

The following extract is from Chapter 8, it could be suggested that the fore foreshadows destructive events later on in the novel, however, it also demonstrates that a community can come together in a time of need.

This section of the narrative highlights Atticus’s calm and wise nature. He always knows how to handle situations with grace.

The use of the verb “roaring” makes the fire appear very ferocious. The roaring of the house makes it seem as though the house wailed in pain before collapsing. This is known as bestial imagery.

Scout comparison of the fire to a pumpkin highlights her age. We are able to see the as a child she makes light of the fire and doesn’t understand the severity.

The fire is personified in this sentence which makes it seem very powerful. The verb “eaten” suggests that the fire has an uncontrollable appetite and will not stop until it has eaten the whole house.

Suddenly I noticed that the men were backing away from Miss Maudie’s house, moving down the street toward us. They were no longer carrying furniture. The fire was well into the second floor and had eaten its way to the roof: window frames were black against a vivid orange center.

“Jem, it looks like a pumpkin—”

“Scout, look!”

Smoke was rolling off our house and Miss Rachel’s house like fog off a riverbank, and men were pulling hoses toward them. Behind us, the fire truck from Abbottsville screamed around the curve and stopped in front of our house.

[…]

Miss Maudie’s tin roof quelled the flames. Roaring, the house collapsed; fire gushed everywhere, followed by a flurry of blankets from men on top of the adjacent houses, beating out sparks and burning chunks of wood.

It was dawn before the men began to leave, first one by one, then in groups. They pushed the Maycomb fire truck back to town, the Abbottsville truck departed, the third one remained. We found out next day it had come from Clark’s Ferry, sixty miles away.

Jem and I slid across the street. Miss Maudie was staring at the smoking black hole in her yard, and Atticus shook his head to tell us she did not want to talk. He led us home, holding onto our shoulders to cross the icy street. He said Miss Maudie would stay with Miss Stephanie for the time being.

**Analytical paragraph: Why is the fire significant in Chapter 8?**

In Chapter 8 the fire is shown to be a very destructive force and foreshadows destructive events later on in the novel: “Roaring, the house collapsed; fire gushed everywhere”. In other words, the fire will not stop until everything has been brought down around it. More specifically, the verb “roared” could suggest that the house is an innocent animal in pain. Furthermore, this could mirror Tom Robinson’s innocence against the aggressor – prejudice.

**Your turn (at least two paragraphs)…**