

~~Dubose.~~

~~MRS. DUBOSE~~

~~Ah. Good evening, Mr. Finch.~~

~~(Jem and Scout hide behind Atticus' back.)~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~My, you look like a picture this evening.~~

~~JEM~~

~~(whispering to Scout) He didn't say a picture of what. (Atticus wacks Jem lightly with his newspaper.)~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~My goodness gracious, look at your flowers. Did you ever see anything more beautiful?~~

~~MRS. DUBOSE~~

~~Oh, I don't think they're as nice as last year.~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~Oh, I can't agree with you.~~

~~JEM~~

~~(whispering to Scout) No matter what she says, don't answer her back - there's a Confederate pistol under her shawl.~~

~~ATTICUS~~

~~I think your yard is going to be the showplace of the town this summer. Well, grand seeing you Mrs. Dubose. (turning to Jem and offering his arm to Scout) Jeremy...Jean Louise...shall we?~~

~~(They cross the street to home.)~~

~~JEAN LOUISE~~

~~It was at times like this when I thought my father, who hated guns, had never been to any wars and would not play football, was the bravest man who ever lived.~~

~~(Jem and Scout break away from Atticus and start a game of tag. Dill crouches in the next yard, watching.)~~

~~And that was the summer Dill came to us.~~

~~(Scout and Jem stop dead in their tracks when they see Dill.)~~

~~JEAN LOUISE and SCOUT (together) Hey -~~

~~DILL~~

~~Hey yourself. I'm Charles Baker Harris, but folks call me Dill.~~

~~JEM~~

~~That's a funny name.~~

~~DILL~~

~~'s not any funnier'n yours. Aunt Rachel says your name's Jeremy Atticus Finch.~~

~~JEM~~

~~At least I'm big enough to fit mine. Your name's longer than you~~

are. How old are you?

DILL Almost eleven.

SCOUT You're sort of puny.

DILL I'm little, but I'm old. I'm from Meridian, Mississippi and I'm spending the summer next door with my Aunt Rachel. My mama works for a photographer in Meridian. She entered my picture in the Beautiful Child Contest and won five dollars. She gave me the money and I went to the picture show twenty times with it.

SCOUT Our mama's dead, but we got a daddy. Where's your daddy?

DILL I haven't got one.

SCOUT Is he dead?

DILL No.

SCOUT Well...if he's not dead, you've got one haven't you?

JEM Hush, Scout.

DILL My daddy has a black pointed beard and owns the L and N Railroad.

SCOUT Is that so?

DILL I help the engineer run the train whenever I want.

*(There is a noise as Mr. Radley leaves his house.)*

JEM Shhh! *(All three children duck down. Jem waits for Mr. Radley to get out of earshot.)* There goes the meanest man that ever took a breath of life.

DILL Why is he the meanest man?

JEM Well, for one thing he has a boy named Boo that he's kept in that house yonder for twenty, thirty years.

DILL Thirty years! How come?

JEM He got in trouble when he was a boy so his daddy locked him up in that house and he hasn't been seen since.

DILL Wonder what he does in there?