

***To Kill a Mockingbird* Chapter 4**

Questions

1. What decision do Jem and Scout make regarding the objects they discover in the Radley's tree hollow?
2. In what ways does Scout's role as the storyteller influence the audience's perception of Jem's perspective?
3. Near the end of the chapter, Jem says that Scout was, "being a girl." How might stereotypes related to race, gender, and social class impact our actions, even when our intent is to challenge these stereotypes.

Answers

1. Jem and Scout decide to keep the items they find in the Radley's tree hollow. In this chapter, they find chewing gum and "Indian-head" pennies. Jem says that they should ask around at school to see if they belong to anyone.
2. Scout's role as the narrator provides a limited and somewhat naive view of Jem's perspective, as she interprets events from a child's point of view. This means that the reader only gets to see Jem through Scout's understanding, which might lack the depth and complexity of Jem's actual thoughts and feelings.
3. Stereotypes can subconsciously influence our perceptions and actions, often in ways that contradict our conscious efforts to challenge them. For instance, we might inadvertently reinforce gender stereotypes while trying to empower a particular gender. Similarly, efforts to address racial and class stereotypes might sometimes oversimplify or misunderstand the complexities of these issues, leading to actions that inadvertently perpetuate them.