Pin the Quote on Atticus

WORD CONNECTIONS

The word **conceal** is formed from the Latin prefix *con-*, meaning "together," and the Latin verb *celare*, meaning "to hide."

Many English words have the prefix *con-*, including *conceited, conceive, concentrate*, and *concentric*.

GRAMMAR & USAGE

An independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a sentence. A sentence having more than one independent clause is a **compound sentence**. One way to combine two such clauses is to use a coordinating conjunction: *and, or, but*. Unless the clauses are both short and simple, you need to place a comma before the coordinating conjunction between the two independent clauses.

Example: I did not remember our mother, but Jem did....

Analysis begins with a close reading of the novel. Read the passage below from the beginning of Chapter 11. Apply all the strategies you have practiced—rereading, diffusing vocabulary, questioning the text, inferring, predicting, and marking the text—to show your understanding as you read.

from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chapter 11

When we were small, Jem and I confined our activities to the southern neighborhood, but when I was well into the second grade at school and tormenting Boo Radley became passé, the business section of Maycomb drew us frequently up the street past the real property of Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose. It was impossible to go to town without passing her house unless we wished to walk a mile out of the way. Previous minor encounters with her left me with no desire for more, but Jem said I had to grow up some time.
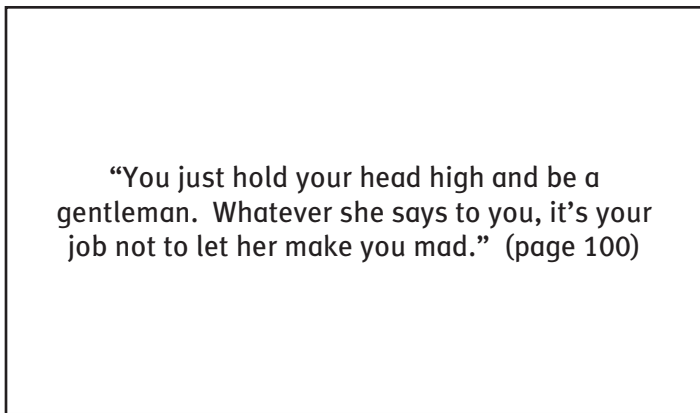
Mrs. Dubose lived alone except for a Negro girl in constant attendance, two doors up the street from us in a house with steep front steps and a dog-trot hall. She was very old; she spent most of each day in bed and the rest of it in a wheelchair. It was rumored that she kept a CSA pistol concealed among her numerous shawls and wraps.

Jem and I hated her. If she was on the porch when we passed, we would be raked by her wrathful gaze, subjected to ruthless interrogations regarding our behavior, and given a melancholy prediction on what we would amount to when we grew up, which was always nothing. We had long ago given up the idea of walking past her house on the opposite side of the street; that only made her raise her voice and let the whole neighborhood in on it.
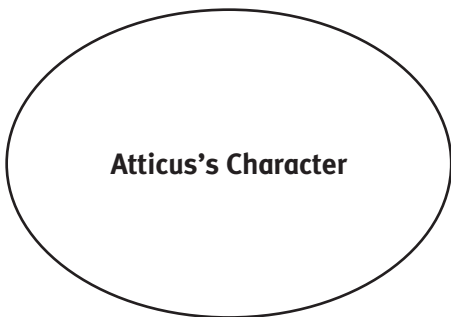
We could do nothing to please her. If I said as sunnily as I could, "Hey, Mrs. Dubose," I would receive for an answer, "Don't you say hey to me, you ugly girl! You say good afternoon, Mrs. Dubose!"

She was vicious. Once she heard Jem refer to our father as "Atticus" and her reaction was apoplectic. Besides being the sassiest, most disrespectful mutts who ever passed her way, we were told that it was quite a pity our father had not remarried after our mother's death. A lovelier lady than our mother never lived, she said, and it was heartbreaking the way Atticus Finch let her children run wild. I did not remember our mother, but Jem did—he would tell me about her sometimes—and he went livid when Mrs. Dubose shot us this message.

1. On index cards, write quotations of important things Atticus says that teach Jem and Scout about people and life. Share a quote with the class, and discuss why you selected it before you place it on the Atticus outline. A sample index card has been prepared for you.

> "You just hold your head high and be a gentleman. Whatever she says to you, it's your job not to let her make you mad." (page 100)

2. What does this quotation reveal about Atticus?

3. Create a web of adjectives that describe Atticus's character:

Atticus's Character

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4. Select two adjectives from your web that are complementary yet not the same, and organize them into a coherent topic sentence with a subject (Atticus) and an opinion (character trait).

   Write your topic sentences here:

   Share your topic sentences with your neighbor.

5. Work collaboratively in small groups to find evidence from all the quotations you've gathered to support your claims.