Questions for “A Time to Kill”

*Instructions*: Answer the following questions as you watch the movie. Be sure to **explain** your answers.

1. Carl Lee Hailey is obviously distraught over the rape of his daughter. Why would he seek out the advice of local attorney, Jake Brigance?

2. Jake’s wife advises her husband to contact the sheriff about Hailey’s state of mind. Why do you think Jake fails to follow his wife’s advice?

3. What thoughts do you think were going through Hailey’s mind just prior to shooting his daughter’s rapists? Was he insane?

4. Why do you think Hailey chooses Jake as his attorney instead of someone better known or with more prestige?

5. What does Jake’s mentor, Lucien, mean when he says, “You can win this case and justice will prevail. But lose and justice will also prevail.”

6. Why do you think the prosecutor would pursue the death penalty in this case? Would you have taken the offer of life in prison he Carl Lee plead guilty?

7. Why are both sides in the trial worried about the psychologists being used as witnesses?

8. Why would Jake be reluctant to accept Roark’s assistance? Why does he eventually relent?

9. Why did Care Lee want to see Deputy Looney?

10. Jake’s family and friends come under harassment and attack and he is not being paid adequately for his services. Why would Jake continue to serve as Carl Lee’s attorney?

11. Why would the judge deny Jake’s motion to move the trial? Was the judge’s logic reasonable?

12. Jake and Roark disagree about the value of the death penalty, whose argument did you most agree with?

13. After jury selection Carl Lee sarcastically remarks “that a jury of my peers”, what did he mean?

14. Why do you think Deputy Looney testifies in favor of Carl Lee? Would you have done the same as Deputy Looney?

15. Why did the prosecutor provoke Carl Lee on the stand?

16. What does Care Lee mean when he says Jake is one of the “bad guys”? Is Carl Lee’s assessment of America correct?

17. What is the main point of Jake’s closing argument to the jury? Did the jury get the verdict “right?”