**To Kill a Mockingbird Chapter 4 Summary**

Every day Scout runs by the Radley Place to get home after school.

One day she notices something, and works up the nerve to go back and look at it.

A tree at the edge of the Radley yard has some tinfoil stuck to a knothole, and inside the hole Scout finds two pieces of chewing gum.

She takes it home, and, after some testing to try to make sure it's not poisoned, she chews it.

Jem's not too pleased with this and makes her spit it out… and then gargle.

Finally, it's summer. Hooray! School's out!

On their way home, they find another piece of tinfoil in the same knothole, and behind it a jewelry box, decorated with more tinfoil, containing two [Indian-head pennies](http://coins.about.com/library/US-coin-values/bl-US0001-Indian-Head-Penny-Values.htm).

Should they keep it? Chewing gum is one thing, but money is another entirely.

Soon Dill shows up, full of stories. They're already bored, so Dill kicks things up a notch by saying he can smell death, and tells Scout that her end is coming.

She tells him to shut it, and Jem mocks both of them for being (or pretending to be) superstitious.

They horse around a little, and Scout ends up flying down the sidewalk in a tire, which ends up dumping her in … The Radleys' front yard.

Thanks to this adventure, Jem invents a new game: acting out the life and times of Boo Radley.

The game starts out simple, but gets more and more complex as the summer goes on.

Atticus gives this game the side-eye, but he doesn't explicitly forbid them from doing it since he doesn't know for sure what they're doing.

But Scout isn't so sure. She's pretty convinced that when she got dumped out of the tire she heard someone laughing inside the Radley house.

**To Kill a Mockingbird Chapter 5 Summary**

Scout convinces Jem to back off on the Radley game, and in true childhood innocence, Dill asks Scout to marry him.

Despite this moment of sweetness, the boys spend most of their time together and neglect Scout.

So, Scout spends her time hanging out with Miss Maudie Atkinson, an older lady who loves to garden.

Miss Maudie makes the best cakes in the neighborhood, and best of all, shares them with the three kids.

Miss Maudie tells Scout more about the Radleys, including that old Mr. Radley (Boo's father) was a "foot-washing Baptist", which is apparently much more hardcore than just [regular Baptists](http://www.brucegourley.com/baptists/).

In fact, some of Mr. Radley's fellow foot-washers have told Miss Maudie that she and her flowers are going to burn in hell, because any time spent not reading the Bible is time spent in sin, especially if it involves creating something pleasing to the senses. (No word on whether criticizing one's neighbors counts as a sin with them.)

Miss Maudie says that the Radleys are "so busy worrying about the next world they've never learned to live in this one" (5.44).

Scout ask if Boo is crazy? Miss Maudie answers that “if he wasn't when this whole thing started, he probably is now.”

Scout finally breaks into Jem and Dill's [Get Rid Of Slimy girlS](http://calvinandhobbes.wikia.com/wiki/G.R.O.S.S) (GROSS) Club, and finds out what they've been planning to do: use a fishing pole to put a note to Boo through one of the upper windows of the Radley Place.

When they put the plan into action, Jem has some difficulty maneuvering the fishing pole, which is too short to reach the window.

And then Atticus shows up. And he doesn't look pleased.

Atticus tells the kids to stop bothering Boo, who has a perfect right to stay in his house if he wants to.