*To Kill a Mockingbird*: Chapter 26

**Summary**

-Scout is now in third grade, and she has a new teacher, Miss Gates

-Scout is no longer terrified of the Radley place, and she feels sorry for bothering them

-Scout reminisces thinking of the items she received in the tree

-Current events project in school

“She printed DEMOCRACY in large letters. ‘Democracy,’ she said, ‘Does anybody have a definition? ‘Us,’ somebody said. I raised my hand, remembering an old campaign slogan Atticus had once told me about. ‘What do you think it means, Jean Louise?” ‘Equal rights for all, special privileges for none,’ I quoted. ‘Very good, Jean Louise, very good,’ Miss Gates smiled. In front of DEMOCRACY, she printed WE ARE A. ‘Now class, say it all together, ‘We are a democracy.’” We said it. Then Miss said, “That’s the difference between American and Germany. We are a democracy and Germany is a dictatorship. Dicator-ship,’ she said. ‘Over here we don’t believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced. Pre-ju-dice,’ she enunciated carefully. ‘There are no better people in the world than the Jews, and why Hitler doesn’t think so is a mystery to me.’ An inquiring soul in the middle of the room said, ‘Why don’t they like the Jews, you reckon, Miss Gates?’ ‘I don’t know, Henry. They contribute to every society they live in, and most of all, they are deeply religious people. Hitler’s trying to do away with religion, so maybe he doesn’t like them for that reason.’ Cecil spoke up. ‘Well I don’t know for certain,’ he said, ‘they’re supposed to change money or somethin’, but they ain’t no cause to persecute ‘em. They’re white, ain’t they?’” (Lee p. 281)

“’Well, coming out of the courthouse that night Miss Gates was—she was goin’ down the steps in front of us, you musta not seen her—she was talking with Miss Stephanie Crawford. I heard her say it’s time somebody taught ‘em a lesson, they were getting’ way above themselves, an’ the next thing they think they can do is marry us. Jem. How can you ahte Hitler so bad an’ then turn around and be ugly about folks right at home?” (Lee, p. 283).

1. What is ironic about Miss Gates opinions about Hitler?
2. How does Scout’s conversation with Jem show that she thinks differently than the majority of white folks in Maycomb county?