Responses to the Trial—Ch 22+23

Jem

- deeply upset
- cries immediately after the trial
- becomes angry every time Scout brings it up

"It ain't right, Atticus."  

Jem is losing his innocence. He saw the evidence clearly and recognized Tom's innocence. He was disillusioned by the prejudice his neighbors showed.

Jem cannot understand how the jury could send an innocent man to jail because of his skin color.
Atticus

- disappointed
- determined not to shield his children from the reality of the world
- determined to help Tom win his appeal

Even though Atticus is disappointed he sees hope in small changes (the time it took the jury to decide). He still wants to do what is right and wants his children to learn to do what is right.
Miss Maudie

- does not approve
- determined to see the good in the situation

Miss Maudie is realistic. She is not surprised. She still recognizes and appreciates small changes and people who do good. She refuses to let Jem lose all faith in his neighbors.

Miss Maudie is a strong independent woman who is not afraid to stand up for what is right, even if it brings criticism. She offers others (Jem) hope.
Aunt Alexandra

-shows concern for Atticus

Aunt Alexandra cares deeply for her family. She recognizes the justice in Atticus’ actions. Everything she does is to keep her family from getting hurt.
The African-American Community

-bring food to the Finch's
-knew Tom would most likely be convicted
-appreciate Atticus' efforts

"The kitchen table was loaded with enough food to bury the family." p. 286

They are defeated, but they support one another. They show appreciation to those who show the love, regardless of race.
Bob Ewell

-threatens Atticus

"...this morning Mr. Bob Ewell stopped Atticus on the post office corner, spat in his face, and told him he'd get him if it took the rest of his life."  p. 290

Bob Ewell got the guilty verdict he wanted, but Atticus made him look bad in front of the town. Winning the case didn't earn Bob Ewell any respect or improvements in his social status.
Miss Stephanie

-thrilled at the excitement and opportunity to gossip

Miss Stephanie is superficial and selfish. She doesn't think deeply enough about other people's feelings to recognize injustice - she only sees a good story.
Cunningham Juror

- shaken up by the evidence
- willing to set Tom free

"You might like to know that there was one fellow who took considerable wearing down - in the beginning he was rarin' for an outright acquittal."

The Cunnighams gained respect for the Finch family and were willing to listen to what Atticus had to say. They could not ignore the truth. They were not strong enough to not give a guilty verdict.
Boo Radley

- the reader doesn't get to see Boo's reaction
- Jem believes Boo doesn't come out because he wants to stay away from society.

"I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley's stayed shut up in the house all this time...it's because he wants to stay inside."

From Jem's perspective, the reader can see Boo as a fearful person who sees the bad in society and chooses to detach from it. 

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