

# To Kill a Mockingbird By Harper Lee

Subjects: **Ethnic Studies**

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History is a collection of accounts that happened in the past, with this perspective in mind, its easy to reflect on the patterns that denotes human livelihood. Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is a real defination of how history can be both a teacher, and showcase human behavioral patterns.

race

Discrimination

inequality

racism

prejudice

mockingbird

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## 1. Introduction

To comprehend society, one must embrace the reality that life is not fair. Harper Lee's historical fiction novel To Kill a Mockingbird examines this concept throughout the plot, providing readers with vivid instances of a variety of events that demonstrate that things do not always turn out the way we want them to. Scout Finch, a six-year-old white girl who is open-minded, curious, and not afraid to voice what she thinks, is the protagonist of Lee's narrative. Scout has an unusual viewpoint on her city, Maycomb, Alabama, and her perspective shifts throughout the novel as she comprehends the nature of life and how it is not fair at all times and that things aren't always even-handed. Harper Lee illustrates this in her story by addressing a variety of issues, including discrimination, the consequences of one's behavior, and the fact that people change (Lee 2010). Discrimination is a key element in the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. Throughout the book, Harper Lee provides numerous examples of prejudice and unequal treatment of people. In Chapter 9, a new persona known as Tom Robinson is introduced. Tom is a pleasant black man with a wife and children who has been falsely accused of rape (Lee 2010). The accuser is Mayella Ewell. The case is taken to court, and Scout's father, Atticus Finch, is assigned to defend Tom Robinson (Lee 2010).

Mr. Gilmer, Mayella's lawyer, is a harsh, bigoted white man. Some individuals think Tom's remarks are inferior to Mayella's due the color of his skin. It's the words of a black person versus those of a white person, and Mayella has the upper hand. The jury takes another hour considering after all of the proof has been presented. Robinson is found guilty. The decision by the jury makes most people unhappy except Jem Finch.

Scout's younger brother, who is nine years old, is particularly disturbed. As he reveals to Atticus that it "ain't right," tears stream down his face (Lee 212). "Tom Robinson is a man of color," Atticus says to Jem, and "'No jury in [they are] area of the world is going to say, 'We think you're guilty, but not very,' on a charge like that.' 'It's either nothing' a complete or acquittal (Lee 219). Because Tom Robinson is black, Atticus predicts that he will not be forgiven for the trial's conclusion by many people. Tom had a slim chance as a black man accused of rape. Scout discovers that racism is a serious issue and that it very well may have influenced the jury's decision in Tom's case. She is more conscious of the prejudice that exists in her society and develops an advanced viewpoint, realizing that not

every individual is fairly treated, or rather, that some are disfavored for reasons beyond their control. Boo Radley is prejudiced against in the same way as Tom Robinson is, but not for the same reasons. *To Kill a Mockingbird* begins with the introduction of Boo (Arthur) Radley (Potyk et al. 2020). Boo is a white person who was imprisoned in his own residence as a teenager as he was mentally ill, involved in a gang, and his family did not want him to go to prison. On Maycomb's main street, he lives next to the Finches. Because of his secretive, enigmatic lifestyle, the majority of Maycomb residents find Boo scary and mysterious. Scout, Jem, and their pal Dill come up with the concept of making up a game in which they replay the life of Boo based on things they hear and mock him. This is known as the Boo Radley Game. The game is then played during summer when Dill is around town, but Atticus quickly discovered out and was not pleased. He gives the kids a lesson about the rights of Boo to privacy and how it is wrong to mock him. "What Mr. Radley [does] [is] his own business" Scout realizes (Lee 230). He will come out if he wants to.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a crucial title for the work because it depicts several different types of mockingbirds throughout. Boo Radley and Tom Robinson emerge as the genuine Mockingbirds of the story as the novel progresses. They are both completely innocent of any crime that have been levied on them. Harper Lee needed to make sure the novel's title was memorable while also being relevant to the story. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has a distinctive and fascinating title that piques readers' interest (Potyk et al. 2020). It will also act as a symbol for something important throughout the plot.

Atticus Finch is the novel's first mockingbird. Atticus Finch is not just Maycomb's sole representative in the assembly, but he is also a superb lawyer. In addition, due to his great character, he has a good regard in both white communities and Maycomb's black communities. His reputation, however, is quickly shattered when he is met with a court case that directly influences him: he is required to represent an African American man in Maycomb's discriminated society. If Atticus goes ahead to defend the man, he would quickly do away with his excellent reputation in town, as his racist American fellows will despise him for treating African Americans as equals, which was very unpopular in the United States during the 1930s (Lee 2010).

## **2. Another Mockingbird**

Tom Robinson was another mockingbird in the story. Like Boo Radley, Tom Robinson was kind and compassionate to others, especially Mayella Ewell. Mayella adored Tom Robinson, and he always did what she asked of him, and he did it with pride. When Bob Ewell accused Tom Robinson of rapping Mayella, it was as if a mockingbird stopped singing or perished as Tom Robinson just would not rape Mayella (Potyk et al. 2020). Tom Robinson was kissing and touching Mayella, according to Bob Ewell. Mr. Ewell now believes that Tom Robinson is a monster who used his daughter. Mayella Ewell was aided by Tom Robinson every time he passed by her residence.

Rumor, shame, and prejudice are all placed on Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Arthur "Boo" Radley. Atticus is first shamed by his family and neighbors for standing up to an African American man and then dubbed "nigger-lover" for his decision. Tom Robinson is found innocent of rapping a young white woman based on overwhelming evidence, yet he is nevertheless condemned and shot to death because he is black. Finally, Arthur Radley is

profoundly misunderstood as a result of his strange past, and he is forced to withdraw from society to avoid the horrible and untruthful rumors about him that circulate throughout Maycomb. The reader learns how the mockingbird symbolism is used to represent persons who are innocent and have good intentions through the stories of Atticus Finch, Tom Robinson, and Arthur "Boo" Radley.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

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## References

1. Lee, Harper. To kill a mockingbird. Random House, 2010.
  2. Potyk, Darryl, and Cicely W. White. "Another Lesson from the Mockingbird: Institutional Racism in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird." The American Journal of Medicine 133.11 (2020): 1360-1361.
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