



To Kill a Mockingbird

BACKGROUND

Southern Race Relations in 1932

- Jim Crow laws segregated the races. African Americans and whites were forced, by law, to use separate restrooms and drinking fountains, sit in separate parts of a bus, and attend separate schools. Marriage between people of different races was illegal.
- African Americans could not serve on a jury.
- African Americans were supposed to address whites with titles such as "Mr." or "Mrs." It was acceptable for whites to call African Americans by their first names, regardless of their age or position.

A Fair Trial?

The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits slavery. The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution promises all native-born Americans **citizenship, equal protection under the law and due process**, the course of judicial proceeding designed to protect an individual's rights. These amendments were supposed to ensure that African-American citizens have a fair trial. However, in the 1930s, discriminatory jury selections and failures to appoint counsel for African-American defendants frequently meant that blacks were not well represented in court and faced decisions made by an all-white, all-male jury.

Trial by Jury

In the 1930s in parts of the South, although only white males were called for jury duty, many court practices were the same as they are today. Potential jurors can be **struck** (eliminated from a list of candidates) or **excused** (freed from their obligation to serve, because it will cause undue hardship). The **foreperson** (in the 1930s **foreman**) is chosen to speak with the judge on behalf of the jury. The foreperson also delivers the jury's **verdict**—their votes on whether the accused is innocent or guilty. Following the verdict, either lawyer can **appeal** the case, that is, take the case to a higher court in an attempt to **reverse** the decision of the lower court in a new trial.

The Great Depression

To Kill a Mockingbird is set in 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression. The Stock Market Crash of October 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression, which affected people throughout the world. It lasted in the United States until the late 1930s. Many people lost their jobs and their savings, and when they could no longer keep up their mortgage payments through working odd jobs, they lost their homes. By 1933, there was a 25 percent national unemployment rate. That meant one person in four was out of a job. The Depression continued until the beginning of the Second World War, which created jobs because of the need for war material.

VOCABULARY

Who's Who in the Courtroom



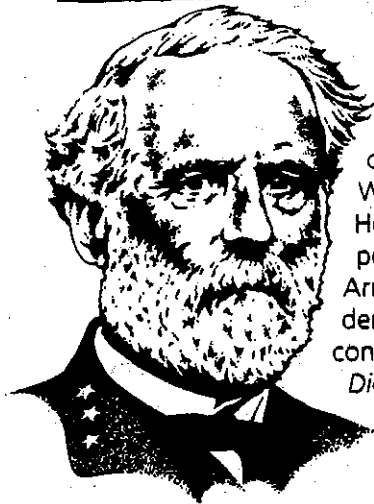
defendant	accused person on trial
counsel for the defense	defendant's lawyer
prosecutor	lawyer in charge of initiating the trial, represents accuser
grand jury	group of people who decide whether a case warrants a trial
witnesses	people who tell what they know, or give testimony, about the facts of a case
judge	person who presides over the courtroom
plaintiff	accuser in a case, represented by the prosecutor





To Kill a Mockingbird

SECTION 1



What's in a Name?

Robert E. Lee was the commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies in the Civil War, and an ancestor of novelist Harper Lee. He was a man who won acclaim from many people including General Grant, the Union Army commander who accepted Lee's surrender. Bob Ewell is another name that has other connotations. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, *Ewell* is an old form of the word we spell *e-v-i-l*.

It's The Old Story

A story based on a false accusation of rape by a woman of one race against a man of another race who turned down her advances is nothing new. You can read the same plot in the first book of the Bible—Genesis, which reports events that took place in Egypt in about the second millennium B.C. The story tells how the Hebrew slave Joseph refused the advances of the wife of his master, Potiphar, how she then accused him of rape, and how he was imprisoned as a result.

VOCABULARY

Southern Style

chillun	Southern pronunciation of the word <i>children</i>
collards	a variety of greens grown principally in the South
crokersack	originally a crocus sack : a burlap sack, named because the bulbs of crocus flowers were shipped in similar sacks.
hey	an informal greeting
rabbit tobacco	a nickname for balsamweed, a plant used as a tobacco substitute by children

Good Reads

- **Tom Swift Series** The first Tom Swift series was created from 1910 to 1941 by Edward Stratemeyer and his daughter Harriet S. Adams and the 40 books were published under the pseudonym Victor Appleton. They were science fiction adventure novels featuring inventor Tom Swift. The books are characterized as spreading the American dream, which included four important features: 1) encouragement of hard work; 2) the ideal of a classless society where anyone can advance; 3) the concept that opportunities exist in many different places; 4) fostering of moral virtues. These books are Jem's.
- **Robinson Crusoe** In the book that Scout reads at night with Atticus, Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked alone on a desert island and works to recreate civilization there. Toward the end of his 30-year stay, he acquires three subjects in his island kingdom and becomes the ruler of a tolerant society.



To Kill a Mockingbird

SECTION 1

Listen to the Mockingbird

Praised in songs and poems, the mockingbird mainly resides in the South. It is a pale gray and white bird about the size of the robin. While its call is a harsh-sounding *tchack*, its song is beautiful and characterized by repeated notes and phrases. Its gift for imitation is how it got its name.

Everything in the Garden Is Lovely

Why does Mrs. Dubose behave so differently to Atticus than to his children? Maybe because he is so extravagant in his compliments to her! He compares her front yard to Bellingrath, one of the biggest tourist attractions of Alabama. Located southwest of Mobile, the Bessie Morse Bellingrath house and gardens include over 60 acres and are specially noted for azaleas and chrysanthemums.

Our Classical Heritage

The great achievements of the classical Greeks and Romans are represented by the adult male and female present in the Finch house.

- Atticus is the English respelling of the Greek word 'ATTIKOS.' This word, meaning "an Athenian" (a resident of Athens), was used by an Athenian poet and legal reformer named Solon (640–559? b.c.) in his writings. It ties Atticus to Solon, who was responsible for instituting the democratic laws of Athens.
- Calpurnia was the third wife of the Roman Emperor Gaius Julius Caesar (100–44 b.c.) who was noted for her faithfulness, but who had no children of her own.

LITERARY CONCEPT

Characterization

Characterization refers to the techniques a writer uses to develop a character. In drama, a character is revealed through his or her words and actions. A character can also be revealed through direct comments about him or her. In Section 1 we learn that Scout is six years old at the time of the story because she tells us this. We also learn about her innocence through the many questions she asks. As you read, look for the statements Scout makes that bring her to vivid life for the reader.

Franklin Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address



At the beginning of the screenplay Jean Louise recalls a phrase from President Roosevelt's inaugural speech. Here is the first paragraph of that memorable address delivered on March 4, 1933:

I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our Nation impels. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.



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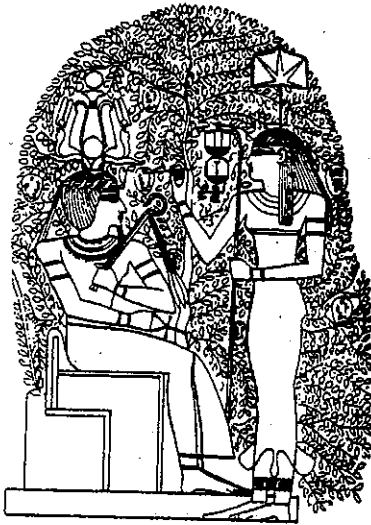
SECTION 2

A Riddle

What do you get when you cross a wardrobe (a tall cupboard for hanging clothes) with a chiffonier (a chest of drawers)? You get a **chifforobe**—a piece of furniture that has drawers on one half and a hanging closet on the other half.

Walk Like an Egyptian

Jem has obviously seen some Egyptian paintings in school and jumped to the false conclusion that Egyptians stood and walked as depicted in the pictures.



Let the Dead Bury the Dead

Heck Tate uses the biblical expression "Let the dead bury the dead" when he recalls the events surrounding Jem's assault. This is a quotation from the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament of the Bible.



One of the scribes then came up and said to [Jesus], "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." . . . Another man, one of his disciples, said to him, "Sir, let me go and bury my father first." But Jesus replied, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their dead." (Matthew 8:19, 21-22)

Step into the Limelight

Some theater lights use calcium oxide (lime) to create a brilliant strong light called a limelight. The term "step into the limelight" has come to mean figuratively "go on center stage" or "become the focus of public attention."

VOCABULARY

Southern Dialect

People in different regions of the United States differ in the way they pronounce words and use grammar and vocabulary. Here are some words from the text that you might not have recognized at first glance if you are not from the South:

all-fired	extremely, very
britches	pants or trousers
knowed	variation of <i>knew</i>
po'	pronunciation of <i>poor</i>
sho'	pronunciation of <i>sure</i>
tol'able	pronunciation of <i>tolerable</i> , meaning fair, or pretty good
totin'	pronunciation of <i>toting</i> , meaning carrying



Glossary

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

astounded (ə-stound'əd): *adj.*
amazed p. 22

asylum* (ə-sī'ləm): *n.* an institution for the care of the mentally ill p. 10

austere* (ô-stī'r'): *adj.* severe or stern p. 8

awestruck (ô'strūk'): *adj.* full of respect p. 37

bluff (blūf): *n.* show of strength where there is none: all bark and no bite p. 40

compromise* (kôm'prə-mīz'): *n.* a settlement of differences in which each side makes concessions p. 34

consent* (kən-sənt'): *n.* voluntary acceptance p. 34

dazedly (dāz'əd-lē): *adv.* as if shocked or stunned p. 36

disperse (dī-spûrs'): *v.* to scatter in various directions p. 30

dumbfounded (dūm'found'əd): *adj.* amazed; astonished p. 37

eerily (ī'rī-lē): *adv.* mysteriously; in an uncanny way p. 24

elated* (ī-lā'tīd): *adj.* joyful p. 18

entailment (ən-tāl'ment): *n.* an imposed duty; in this case bartering for rather than paying a legal fee p. 4

erratically (ī-răt'ī-klē): *adv.* without a fixed course p. 35

feat (fēt): *n.* an act of courage; an achievement p. 18

foyer (foi'ər): *n.* an entrance hall p. 20

heave (hêv): *v.* to lift with a strong effort p. 24

idler (ī'dlēr): *n.* a lazy or unemployed person p. 18

impassively* (īm-pās'īv-lē): *adv.* without revealing any emotion p. 21

infested (īn-fĕst'əd): *adj.* overrun with (in this case bats) p. 18

intimidated* (īn-tīm'ī-dāt'əd): *adj.* frightened p. 23

intrigued* (īn-trĕgd'): *adj.* interested, curious p. 9

lounge (lounj): *v.* to sit in a lazy, relaxed way p. 18

muster (mūs'tər): *v.* to summon up p. 24

mutual* (myōō'chōō-əl): *adj.* shared p. 34

packsaddle (pāk'sād'l): *n.* a saddle for a pack animal (like a mule) on which loads can be secured p. 20

prowler (prowl'ər): *n.* a person who goes around sneakily in order to rob p. 27

ramshackle (rām'shāk'al): *adj.* likely to fall apart because of shoddy construction or poor upkeep p. 24

reassured (rĕ'ə-shōōrd'): *adj.* having confidence restored p. 29

regal (rĕ'gəl): *adj.* like a king p. 8

reluctantly (rĭ-lūk'tənt-lē): *adv.* unwillingly p. 18

reverently* (rĕv'ər-ənt-lē): *adv.* with love and respect p. 37

spinster (spīn'stər): *n.* a woman who has remained single beyond the usual age for marriage p. 10

stalk (stōk): *v.* to move with a stiff or angry gait p. 33

torment (tôr-mĕnt'): *v.* to annoy or pester p. 13

trifle (trī'fəl): *v.* to joke p. 33

unpretentiously* (ūn'prī-tĕn'shĕs-lē): *adv.* modestly p. 31

vault (vōlt): *v.* to jump or leap over p. 26

wrath* (rāth): *n.* violent anger; fury p. 40

PARTIAL PRONUNCIATION KEY

ā at, gas	īr dear, here	th thing, with
ā ape, day	ng sing, anger	th then, other
ā father, barn	ō odd, not	ū up, nut
ār fair, dare	ō open, road, grow	ūr fur, earn, bird, worm
ē egg, ten	ō awful, bought, horse	zh treasure, garage
ē evil, see, meal	oi coin, boy	ē awake, even, pencil,
hw white, everywhere	ōō look, full	pilot, focus
ī inch, fit	ōō root, glue, through	er perform, letter
ī idle, my, tried	ou out, cow	

SOUNDS IN FOREIGN WORDS

kh German ich, auch;	œ French feu, cœur;	ü French utile, rue;
Scottish loch	German schön	German grün
n French entre, bon, fin		



Glossary (continued)

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

adjourned* (ə-jūrnd'): *adj.*
ended for the time being p. 70

burly (būr'lē): *adj.* heavy, strong,
and muscular p. 51

caliber* (kāl'ə-bər): *n.* degree of
value p. 68

cynical* (sīn'ī-kəl): *adj.* certain
of the willingness of others to
accept immoral dealings as a mat-
ter of course p. 68

defiance* (dī-fī'əns): *n.* the deci-
sion to oppose someone or some-
thing, often an authority p. 50

descend (dī-sēnd'): *v.* to come
down on p. 76

embalming (ēm-bām'īng): *n.*
the process of preventing the
decay of a corpse through treat-
ment with preservatives p. 43

entangled (ēn-tāng'gəld): *adj.*
twisted together so that it is diffi-
cult to separate the items p. 76

gullet (gūl'īt): *n.* the throat p. 56

hound (hound): *v.* to chase like
dogs pursuing a fox p. 67

hover (hūv'ər): *v.* to move back
and forth near one place p. 49

immoral* (ī-mōr'əl): *adj.* not
exhibiting goodness or correct-
ness of character and behavior
p. 68

insecure* (īn'sī-kyōōr'): *adj.* not
secure or safe p. 50

integrity* (īn-tēg'rī-tē): *n.*
soundness p. 68

intently (īn-tēnt'lē): *adv.* with
fixed purpose p. 55

lanky (lāng'kē): *adj.* tall, thin,
and awkward p. 55

oblivious* (ə-blīv'ē-əs): *adj.*
unaware p. 49

ordeal* (ôr-dēl'): *n.* a very diffi-
cult or painful experience p. 65

passion (pāsh'ən): *n.* powerful
emotions (as opposed to logical
thoughts) p. 68

perspire (pər-spīr'): *v.* to sweat
p. 68

reel (rēl): *v.* to be thrown off bal-
ance p. 76

reverberating* (rī-vūr'bē-
rāt'īng): *adj.* echoing over and
over p. 76

self-conscious (sēlf'kōn'shəs):
adj. especially aware of one's
manner; socially ill at ease p. 52

sheer (shīr): *adj.* pure p. 66

solitary (sōl'ī-tēr'ē): *adj.* single;
only p. 48

spasm (spāz'əm): *n.* a sudden,
involuntary muscle contraction
p. 79

strenuous (strēn'yōō-əs): *adj.*
requiring great effort p. 59

sullenly* (sūl'ən-lē): *adv.* with a
show of resentment p. 59

temerity* (tə-mēr'ī-tē): *n.* reck-
lessness; rashness p. 68

trowel (trou'əl): *n.* a tool for
spreading cement or mortar
p. 44

unconscious (ūn-kōn'shəs): *adj.*
temporarily lacking full awareness
p. 78

unmitigated* (ūn-mīt'ī-gā'tīd):
adj. absolute p. 68

veranda (və-rān'də): *n.* another
word for gallery; a balcony
p. 54

TKM Quotes

Know the speaker, to whom they are speaking, and the significance of the quote.

Quote

1. "Being Southerners, it was a source of shame to some members of the family..."
2. "Maycomb County had recently been told it had nothing to fear but fear itself."
3. "As Mr. Radley passed by, Boo drove the scissors into his parent's leg..."
4. "That's okay, ma'am, you'll get to know all the country folks after a while."
5. "I'd soon's kill you as look at you. Now go home."
6. "-until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."
7. "Someone inside the house was laughing."
8. "That is three-fourths colored folks and one-fourth Stephanie Crawford."
9. "We were playin' strip poker up yonder by the fishpool..."
10. "Tree's dying."
11. "The world's endin'..."
12. "Looks like all of Maycomb was out tonight, in one way or another."
13. "The main one is, if I didn't I couldn't hold my head up in town..."
14. "...but you don't understand children much."
15. "...it was not until years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said."
16. "...but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."
17. "...still think your father can't do anything? Still ashamed of him?"
18. "...I wanted you to see what real courage is..."
19. "You got no business bringin' white chillun here- they got their church, we got our'n."
20. "Nobody leaves here until we have ten dollars."
21. "They'd think I was puttin' on airs to beat Moses."
22. "Gentle breeding...and that you should try to live up to your name-"
23. "...they *do* get on a lot better without me."
24. "Maybe he doesn't have anywhere to run off to..."
25. "And you know what the truth is."
26. "Tell him hey for me, won't you?"
27. "That proves something-that a gang of wild animals *can* be stopped..."
28. "It was her right eye, Mr. Finch."
29. "I seen that black [man] yonder ruttin' on my Mayella!"
30. "...a'standing over me hollerin' who done it, who done it?"
31. "No, I don't recollect if he hit me. I mean yes I do, he hit me."
32. "What did your father see in the window, the crime of rape or the best defense to it?"
33. "He says you [goshdam] whore, I'll kill ya."
34. "You felt sorry for *her*, you felt *sorry* for her?"
35. "...I live like I do because that's the way I want to live."
36. "Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passin'."
37. "I wish Bob Ewell wouldn't chew tabacco."
38. "...it's because he *wants* to stay inside."
39. "His food doesn't stick going down, does it?"
40. "I guess Tom was tired of white man's chances and preferred to take his own."
41. "Over here we don't believe in persecuting anybody."
42. "I know every last one of you's in there a-layin' on the floor!"
43. "Hey, Boo..."
44. "[*Gosh darn it*], I'm not thinking of Jem!"
45. "Well, it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?"
46. "...an' Atticus, when they finally saw him, why he hadn't done any of those things...Atticus, he was real nice..."