

*To Kill a Mockingbird* By Harper Lee

Setting: 1930's Maycomb, Alabama

POV: told in the first person as a flashback

Characters:

**Jean Louise Finch (Scout)**

- 6 yrs old when the story begins, 9 yrs old at the end
- lively, impulsive, a fighter
- tomboy

**Jeremy Atticu Finch (Jem)**

- 10 yrs old when the story begins, 13 yrs old when it ends
- going through a painful process of growing up
- remembers his mother ( dies when he was 6 when she died)

**Atticus Finch**

- Scout and Jem's father
- Well respected
- State Legislator and lawyer
- Firm and fair with his children
- Moral courage ~ defends Tom Robinson

**Charles Baker Harris (Dill)**

- Comes to Maycomb every summer to stay with his Aunt Rachel
- Fragile and insecure
- Wants security and stability

**Calpurnia**

- Cares for the Finch children
- Kind, loving and firm with the children
- Leads a double life~ one of the few African-Americans in Maycomb who can read and write, but disguises her education with when she is with other African-Americans

**Aunt Alexandra**

- Atticus's sister
- Snob, prejudiced

**Arthur Radley (Boo)**

- At the beginning of the story he is a mysterious character, the children learn more about him as the story progresses
- Spent most of his life in solitary confinement because of a minor infraction with the law

- Solitary, innocent, kind person who, like the mockingbird, does no harm~ he is the victim of his family's rigid pride

**Miss Maudie Atkinson**

- Similar to Atticus ; tolerant, courageous, no prejudice, straightforward and honest.
- Liked and respected by the children

**Tom Robinson -**

- The black field hand accused of rape. Tom is one of the novel's "mockingbirds," an important symbol of innocence destroyed by evil.

**Link Deas -**

- Tom Robinson's employer.
- In his willingness to look past race and praise the integrity of Tom's character, Deas epitomizes the opposite of prejudice.

**Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose -**

- An elderly, ill-tempered, racist woman who lives near the Finches.
- Although Jem believes that Mrs. Dubose is a thoroughly bad woman, Atticus admires her for the courage with which she battles her morphine addiction.

**Nathan Radley -**

- Boo Radley's older brother.
- Scout thinks that Nathan is similar to the deceased Mr. Radley, Boo and Nathan's father.
- Nathan cruelly cuts off an important element of Boo's relationship with Jem and Scout when he plugs up the knothole in which Boo leaves presents for the children.

**Heck Tate -**

- The sheriff of Maycomb
- major witness at Tom Robinson's trial.
- Heck is a decent man who tries to protect the innocent from danger.

**Mr. Underwood -**

- The publisher of Maycomb's newspaper.
- Mr. Underwood respects Atticus and proves his ally.

**Mr. Dolphus Raymond -**

- A wealthy white man who lives with his black mistress and mulatto children.
- Raymond pretends to be a drunk so that the citizens of Maycomb will have

an explanation for his behavior.

- In reality, he is simply jaded by the hypocrisy of white society and prefers living among blacks.

**Mr. Walter Cunningham -**

- A poor farmer and part of the mob that seeks to lynch Tom Robinson at the jail.
- Mr. Cunningham displays his human goodness when Scout's politeness compels him to disperse the men at the jail.

**Walter Cunningham -**

- Son of Mr. Cunningham and classmate of Scout.
- Walter cannot afford lunch one day at school and accidentally gets Scout in trouble.

**Mayella Ewell -**

- Bob Ewell's abused, lonely, unhappy daughter.
- Though one can pity Mayella because of her overbearing father, one cannot pardon her for her shameful indictment of Tom Robinson.

**Bob Ewell -**

- A drunken, mostly unemployed member of Maycomb's poorest family.
- In his knowingly wrongful accusation that Tom Robinson raped his daughter, Ewell represents the dark side of the South: ignorance, poverty, squalor, and hate-filled racial prejudice.

**Theme:**

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work. There are many different themes throughout the novel. They include;

1. Racial prejudice
2. Parents and children ~ relationships
3. Understanding other people
4. Courage
5. Growing up
6. Justice and the law
7. Small town life
8. The coexistence of good and evil
9. Moral education

A FEW things that have happened so far:

Chapter 1; The Start of it All:

- Scout is looking back and telling the story

- The Finch clan was established by Simon Finch over 100 yrs ago, founded the family homestead Finch's Landing
- Atticus left to study law in Montgomery, then moved to Maycomb to practice law
- Atticus's brother studied medicine in Boston with financial help from Atticus
- Atticus's sister Alexandra stayed at Finch's Landing
- Atticus's wife died when Scout was 2
- Calpurnia, the families African-American cook has looked after the kids ever since
- Dill comes to spend summers with his Aunt Rachel
- The Radley's have always kept to themselves
- Boo got in wit the wrong crowd in his eens and got into some trouble
- His father told the judge he would keep Boo out of trouble
- He isolated Boo in the house
- Boo is looked after by his older brother Nathan, who treats him the same way his father did
- There are many rumors about Boo
- Dill wants to make Boo come out of the house
- Dill dares Jem to knock on the Radley's front door
- Jem touches the house
- The children think they see movement at one of the windows

## Chapter 2

- Dill goes home and Scout starts school
- Scout gets in trouble with the new teacher, Miss Caroline Fischer (she can already read and write)
- Walter Cunningham has no money for lunch, Miss Caroline offers to give him some, Scout tries to explain that Cunninghams won't take anything they can't pay back

## Chapter 3

- Walter has dinner with the Finches
- Scout is scolded for her bad manners
- Miss Caroling finds a louse (cootie) in Burris Ewell's hair
- Burris Ewell is threatening and abusive to Miss Caroline, the class describes the Ewell's life to her and try to comfort her
- Scout tells Atticus that she does not want to go back to school
- Atticus teaches Scout to look at things from the other person's point of view
- Atticus and Scout make a deal that she will continue to attend school and they will continue to read with each other at night

## Chapter 4

- Scout finds chewing gum in the oak tree
- Jem and Scout find 2 pennies in the oak tree
- Dill arrives for summer
- Scout rolls inside a tire into the Radley garden

- Jem has to get the tireback
- The children invent a new game and turn Boo Radley's life into a play
- Atticus shows his disapproval of the play

#### Chapter 5

- Jem and Dill spend a lot of time together
- Scout turns to Miss Maudie for company
- Miss Maudie tells Scout more about the Radley's and Atticus
- The children try to push a letter to Boo through the window
- Atticus catches them and tells them to leave Boo alone

#### Chapter 6

- Dill's last night in Maycomb, the children try to look at Boo through the window
- They see a man's shadow and hear a shotgun
- They escape, but Jem loses his pants on a barbed wire fence
- Nathan Radley tells the neighbors he shot at a black man on his property
- Dill comes up with an excuse for Jem's missing pants
- Later that night Jem goes back to get his pants

#### Chapter 7

- Jem tells Scout that his pants had been mended and folded for him
- The children find twine, soap carvings of two children, chewing gum, a medal and a watch in the tree
- Jem writes a thank you letter to put in the tree, but the hole is blocked up with cement
- Jem realizes that Nathan Radley blocked up the hole to cut off communication between Boo and the children

#### Chapter 8

- The children see snow for the first time and make a snowman
- Miss Maudie's house burns down, the children watch the fire from in front of the Radley house
- Atticus notices a blanket around Scout's shoulders, Jem realizes that Boo must have put it on her
- Jem pours out his thoughts about Boo and Nathan Radley
- Miss Maudie accepts the loss of her house

#### Chapter 9

- Atticus explains to Scout why he is defending Tom Robinson
- Atticus tells Scout to be ready for insults and criticisms and asks her not to respond fighting
- Atticus and the children go to stay with Aunt Alexandra, Uncle Jack and cousin Francis
- Scout is criticized for being unladylike
- Francis is rude about Dill and criticizes Atticus

- Scout hits Francis and Francis lies about the incident
- Scout tells Uncle Jack her side of the story
- Scout hears Atticus and Uncle Jack talking
- Atticus says he is worried about how Scout will deal with the trial
- Atticus wants his children to trust him and go to him for answers
- Years later, Scout realizes that Atticus wanted her to hear the conversation

#### Chapter 10

- Scout and Jem are disappointed that Atticus isn't like the other fathers (would rather read than play football)
- A rabid dog approaches the house, Atticus kills it with a single shot, the children are shocked

#### Chapter 11

- Mrs. Dubose insults the children and Atticus
- Jem loses his temper and cuts off the tops of Mrs. Dubose's camellia bushes, Atticus is angry and sends Jem to talk to Mrs. Dubose
- Atticus talks to Scout about the Tom Robinson case
- Jem has to read to Mrs. Dubose for a month, for a few minutes longer each day, as payment for the damage he did to her bushes
- Mrs. Dubose dies
- Mrs. Dubose was a morphine addict, determined to beat her addiction before she died
- The reading sessions helped her to give up the pain relieving morphine (Atticus knew this, says she was truly courageous)

#### Chapter 12

- Dill's mother remarries and he has to stay in Meridian for the summer
- When Atticus is away, Calpurnia brings the children to her church
- The children learn more about Calpurnia
- Aunt Alexandra comes to stay

#### Chapter 13

- Atticus explains that Aunt Alexandra will be staying for the summer
- Aunt Alexandra tries to impose her own ideas on the family
- Aunt Alexandra fits well in Maycomb

#### Chapter 14

- Atticus and Aunt Alexandra disagree about Calpurnia
- Scout fights Jem
- Scout finds Dill hiding under the bed, he has run away from home because he feels unwanted
- Jem tells Atticus that Dill is there

#### Chapter 15

- Dill is allowed to stay

- Heck Tate, Link Deas, Dr. Reynolds, Mr. Avery and other men visit Atticus
- They think there will be trouble when Tom is brought to the local jail
- Atticus sits outside the jail to guard Tom, the children follow him
- A lynch mob, led by Mr. Cunningham arrives at the jail
- Scout unknowingly diffuses the situation by chatting to Mr. Cunningham

#### Chapter 16

- Atticus discusses the lynch mob with his family
- The children watch the townspeople going to the trial
- In spite of being told not to, the children go to the courtroom
- The children discuss Mr. Dolphous Raymond, he seems to prefer the company of African-Americans
- Reverend Sykes helps the children get seats on the “Colored” balcony

#### Chapter 17

- The sheriff reports that he was called to the Ewell’s house in November on a rape accusation
- He found Mayella Ewell with injuries on the right side of her face and around her neck
- The sheriff arrested Tom Robinson following Mayella’s identification
- No doctor was called
- Bob Ewell takes the oath and witness stand
- Bob Ewell says he saw the rape taking place
- Atticus establishes once more that a doctor was never called and that Bob Ewell is left handed
- We learn more about the way the Ewells live, by Scout’s description

#### Chapter 18

- Mayella says that Tom Robinson did a job for her, then hit and raped her (she is frightened and tearful when giving her testimony)
- Atticus questions her and reveals a picture of Mayella’s impoverished and deprived life
- Atticus gets Mayella to repeat her story of what happened
- Tom Robinson rises to be identified and his withered left arm is revealed
- Mayella sticks to her story, she gets angry when Atticus continues to question her

#### Chapter 19

- Tom Robinson takes the stand, his left hand slips off the Bible when he takes the oath
- Tom states that he had done jobs for Mayella a number of times
- On this occasion, Mayella invited him into the house and made advances on him, he tried to escape ~ he ran away when Mr. Ewell arrived
- Dill cries during the cross-examination of Tom, Scout takes him outside

## Chapter 20

- Dolphus Raymond gives Dill a Coca-Cola to settle his stomach ~ he tells Dill and Scout he just pretends to be a heavy drinker
- Atticus sums up his case for the jury
- He explains that Mayella made advances on Tom
- Bob Ewell saw this through the window and beat Mayella for her behavior, Mayella said that Tom raped her
- Atticus begs the jury to set aside prejudice and declare Tom innocent

## Chapter 21

- Calpurnia arrive and takes the children home
- They get permission to come back to hear the verdict
- Jem is convinced that Atticus has won, even though Rev. Sykes warns him that he has never known a jury to favor a black man over a white
- The jury returns a guilty verdict

## Chapter 22

- Atticus says he will appeal the verdict
- The African-Americans send gifts of food to Atticus
- Jem is filled with anger and bitterness over the verdict
- Miss Maudie discusses the trial with the children
- Bob Ewell spits at Atticus and threatens revenge

## Chapter 23

- Atticus is not alarmed by Bob Ewell's assault
- Atticus and Jem discuss the legal system, he explains that prejudice and resentment make otherwise reasonable men behave irrationally and unfairly
- Atticus reveals that Mr. Cuninghams wanted Tom Robinson to be acquitted
- Aunt Alexandra insists that the Finches should not associate with the Cuninghams
- Jem tells Scout about the different kinds of people in the world

## Chapter 24

- Scout attends a missionary tea~ dressed in appropriate "feminine" clothes, and helps Calpurnia carry the coffee
- Atticus arrives with the news that Tom Robinson is dead, he was shot while trying to escape from prison
- Atticus and Cal go to break the news to Helen, Tom's wife
- Aunt Alexandra hides her strong feelings and continues her role of hostess, Scout follows her example

## Chapter 25

- Dill and Jem go with Atticus to tell Tom's wife of his death
- Maycomb doesn't show any sympathy for Tom
- Mr. Underwood writes about Tom's death in the Maycomb Tribune
- Bob Ewell continues his threats

## Chapter 26

- Scout's attitude toward Boo Radley has changed
- In Current Events Class, Miss Gates discusses Hitler's treatment of the Jews
- Jem is disturbed by the memory of the courtroom

## Chapter 27

- Bob Ewell thinks that Atticus cost him his job
- Judge Taylor has an intruder in his house
- Bob Ewell follows Helen Robinson to work
- A community celebration of Halloween is planned, including a pageant
- Scout is to represent "pork" as an example of Maycomb's agricultural produce
- Scout has to wear a costume that makes her look like a cured ham

## Chapter 28

- Jem and Scout walk to school in the dark
- Cecil Jacobs jumps out at them
- At the pageant, Scout falls asleep and misses her cue
- Scout keeps her costume on
- Scout and Jem wait for the audience to leave and then set out for home
- Jem and Scout hear someone following them, they are attacked
- An unknown man pulls Scout's attacker off her
- Scout finds a man's body on the ground
- The man who saved them is carrying Jem home
- Dr. Reynolds and Heck Tate are called, Jem has a broken arm
- Heck Tate says Bob Ewell is lying dead with a kitchen knife in him

## Chapter 29

- Scout tells Heck Tate what happened
- Scout realizes that the man who saved them was Boo Radley

## Chapter 30

- Atticus thinks that Jem killed Bob Ewell
- Heck Tate explains that Boo Radley killed Ewell
- Tate wants to keep this quiet to protect Boo from the attention he would receive
- Atticus agrees to stick to the story that Ewell died when he fell on his knife

## Chapter 31

- Scout takes Boo home
- Scout stands on the Radley porch and surveys the neighborhood
- Scout sees the events of the past two years from Boo's point of view

