To Kill a Mockingbird

By Harper Lee

**Harper Lee**

* She was born on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Monroeville, Alabama (the fictional “Maycomb, Alabama”), the youngest of three children
* Her father “Amasa” was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whom she deeply admired
* Her mother’s maiden name was “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* Her own childhood mirrors that of the character “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, she published her only novel – “To Kill a Mockingbird”
* It received the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Literature in 1961
* Since 1960, “To Kill a Mockingbird” has never been out of print
* She died in 2016 at 89
* Her family is related to Confederate General Robert E. Lee, a man especially noted for his devotion to honor

**Mockingbird’s Reception**

* The novel was an expanded version of a short story
* It was on best-sellers lists for more than eighty weeks
* In April 1961, Lee was awarded the Alabama Library Association Award
* In May 1961, she was the first woman since 1942 to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

**Setting**

Maycomb, Alabama (fictional city)

Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Although slavery has long been abolished, the Southerners in Maycomb continue to believe in white supremacy.

**Themes of the Novel**

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**Symbolism**

* The Mockingbird: Symbolizes Everything That is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in This World
* The mockingbird only sings to please others and therefore it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to shoot a mockingbird. They are considered harmless creatures who give joy with their song.
* The mockingbird image or symbol appears \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times in the novel.
* Two characters in the novel symbolize the mockingbird: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Life During the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Race Relations**

* Nine black teenagers are falsely charged with raping two white women in Scottsboro, Alabama; eight are convicted and sentenced to death
* The U.S. Supreme Court reverses their convictions because their constitutional rights had been violated
* The teens are tried for a second time, and are again found guilty
* The Supreme Court reverses the convictions again
* Eventually, four of the defendants are freed; the other five serve prison terms
* The last Scottsboro defendant was paroled in 1950
* It was virtually impossible for a black to receive a fair trial

**Life During the 1930s**

* The Great Depression sweeps the nation – Many families do not even have money for basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter.
* The per capita income for families in Alabama (and Oklahoma) is $125 - $250 a year
* Many southern blacks pick cotton for a living
* Franklin D. Roosevelt is President
* Life During the 1930s
* Hitler is Chancellor of Germany
* He believes that Jews, African Americans, and other races are inferior to Anglo-Saxons.

The novel is set in the midst of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which began in October of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is considered the worst economic depression in modern times. In 1933, the United States had a 25% unemployment rate. Home loss followed this trend. In contrast, the rate in September 1995 was 4.2%. In March 2009, the rate was 8.5%. In Washington right now, it is 9.4%.

**Great Depression**

The Great Depression ended in the late 1930s because of the need for war materials at the beginning of WWII, and government job creation. Once people went to work, money went back into circulation and the economy grew

The man most associated with the economic recovery of the 30’s is Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 32nd president of the United States, inaugurated on March 4, 1933. In his historic speech, he encouraged Americans to put aside their fears and support his efforts to get America back on track…

“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.”

**Legal Segregation in Alabama, 1923-1950**

* No white female nurses in hospitals that treat black men
* Separate passenger cars for whites and blacks
* Separate waiting rooms for whites and blacks
* Separation of white and black convicts
* Separate schools
* No interracial marriages
* Segregated water fountains
* Segregated theatres
* Jim Crow Laws