

# WU?@therep

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

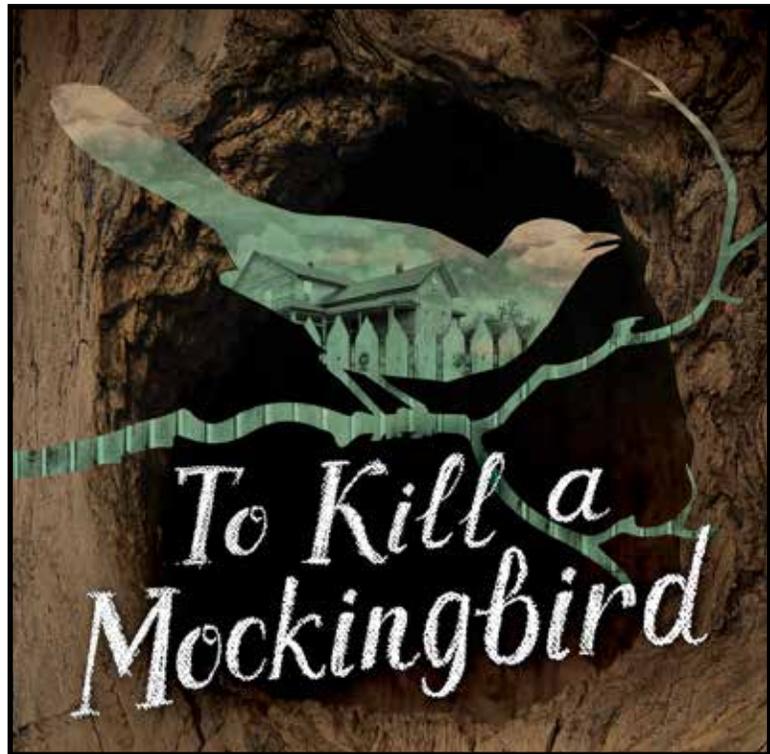
by Harper Lee

Adapted by Christopher Sergel

Directed by Risa Brainin

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Shaping a Vibrant Arts Community For All  
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The State of the Arts



# the 11

At The Rep, we know that life moves fast—okay, really fast. But we also know that some things are worth slowing down

for. We believe that live theatre is one of those pit stops worth making and are excited that you are going to stop by for a show. To help you get the most bang for your buck, we have put together WU? @ THE REP—an IM guide that will give you everything you need to know to get at the top of your theatergoing game—fast. You'll find character descriptions (A/S/L), a plot summary (FYI), biographical information (F2F), historical context (B4U), and other bits and pieces (HTH). Most importantly, we'll have some ideas about what this all means IRL, anyway.

## CU@therep!



### The Teacher's Lounge

In an effort to make our educational materials accessible to students and easy for educators to incorporate into the classroom, our study guide is written in a student-oriented format. We hope that you will circulate this guide among your students in the weeks preceding your visit to The Rep, encouraging them to browse it before and after class and as time allows, using it as a launch point for both pre- and post-performance discussions. You may also want to visit our website, [www.repstl.org](http://www.repstl.org), for additional information including activity suggestions and behind-the-scenes information. Any materials, either from this guide or from our website may be reproduced for use in the classroom.

**NEATO!**

As always, we appreciate your making live theatre a part of your classroom experience and welcome your feedback and questions.

The desire to learn, insatiable when awakened, can sometimes lie dormant until touched by the right teacher or the right experience. We at The Rep are grateful to have the opportunity to play a role supporting you as you awaken the desire for learning in your students.

Watching this play based on a well-known novel will let your students take a step deeper into these characters' lives and the choices they make in a time when poverty and prejudice dominated daily life. As Scout learns the power of empathy and struggle for justice, your students will be able to explore the where they are on the path to creating the kind of community in which they want to live.

It would be a good idea to take a minute to give your students these quick theatre etiquette reminders:

- This show has one intermission; there will be time for bathroom breaks before the show and halfway through.
- The actors can hear the audience and appreciate the laughter, gasps and quiet attention to action. However, talking, moving around and making noise is very distracting to others and can dampen the energy on stage.
- Pictures, phone calls and texting are not allowed at any time during the performance.

Live theatre won't allow your students to take a passive role—they must work with us to create the experience which takes the learning deeper. Our unique ability to fuse words and images onstage allows your students to explore new ideas as well as excites their imaginations. We will do our part so your students will be stirred to understandings and self-awareness while delving into new and familiar worlds. You are doing your part by using The Rep to extend your intellectual and aesthetic curriculum. Thank you!

Marsha Coplon, Director of Education

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# A/S/L

**SCOUT:** An eight-year-old girl

**JEAN LOUISE FINCH:** Scout as a grown woman

**JEM:** Scout's 12-year-old brother

**ATTICUS FINCH:** Scout and Jem's father, the town lawyer

**CALPURNIA:** The Finches' devoted cook and housekeeper

**DILL:** Scout and Jem's eight-year-old friend who visits each summer

**NATHAN RADLEY:** The Finches' neighbor

**ARTHUR "BOO" RADLEY:** Nathan's reclusive brother, whom Scout and Jem have never seen

**HECK TATE:** The sheriff

**JUDGE TAYLOR:** The local judge

**REVEREND SYKES:** A minister at the First Purchase African Church

**MAYELLA EWELL:** The eldest daughter from a poor family

**BOB EWELL:** Mayella's father

**MR. GILMER:** A public prosecutor

**TOM ROBINSON:** A black man accused of a crime

**HELEN ROBINSON:** Tom's wife

**TOWNSPEOPLE:** Maudie Atkinson, Mrs. Dubose, Walter Cunningham and others

# H

**ABREAST:** up-to-date, aware

**ACQUIT:** to declare someone not guilty of a criminal charge

**CAMELLIA:** an evergreen shrub and the state flower of Alabama

**CHIFFAROBE:** a closet-like piece of furniture with both drawers and space for hanging clothes

**CONTEMPORARIES:** people roughly the same age as one another

**ENTAILMENT:** the process of ensuring a property goes to its specified line of heirs by banning its division or sale

**HAINTS:** ghosts or apparitions

**HOOVER CARTS:** a name given to vehicles used during the Great Depression—when people could not afford gas for their cars, they would cut off the rear end of the vehicle and use a horse to pull their car like a cart

**INCONSPICUOUS:** not attracting attention

**INDIAN HEAD PENNY:** a copper coin made between 1859 and 1909 with Lady Liberty wearing a Native American headdress on one side

**IOTA:** an extremely small amount

**MAD DOG:** slang for a dog with rabies

**OLD SARUM:** a place located in northern Maycomb County with a reputation for being the home of troublemakers

**REFORM SCHOOL:** a place where delinquent children could be sent instead of prison

**RUNNING A STILL:** a reference to the illegal making of alcohol

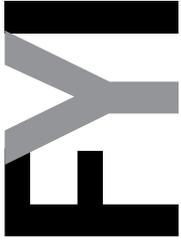
**SCUPPERNONG:** a type of grape

**SHINNIED UP:** slang for intoxicated

**SUBPOENA:** a legal document that orders one to appear in court and provide testimony

**TEMERITY:** excessive confidence

**UNMITIGATED:** absolute



## SPOILER ALERT!

This synopsis contains spoilers about the story of the show. If you wish to be completely surprised by what you see on stage, you may wish to wait until after the play to read this article.

Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this play follows Jean Louise Finch as she reflects back on an eventful period of her childhood. At the top of the play, we find ourselves in Maycomb, Alabama in 1935. On stage, we are introduced to both grown-up Jean Louise, and her younger self, "Scout" as most people called her when she was a child. Together, Jean Louise and Scout set up the story for us as we learn about Maycomb and its inhabitants.

It's summer vacation, and Scout is thrilled. Instead of school, it's time to play in her treehouse and explore the neighborhood. Miss Maudie, a kind neighbor, is always a good one to talk to, but another neighbor, Mrs. Dubose, isn't quite so kind. She likes to gripe at Scout and her brother, Jem, and is convinced the children like to destroy her flowers. There's no way they'd get away with that though—not with their housekeeper, Calpurnia, keeping a steady eye on them both. Soon, Scout's summertime friend, Dill, arrives from his home in Mississippi. He's staying in Maycomb with his aunt, and is a great partner in crime. The first order of business is finding out more about the town's resident eccentric: Boo Radley.

Boo is the Finches' neighbor, who Jem claims was once arrested, subsequently stabbed his father with a scissors, and hasn't been seen outside of the Radley house since. After a few stories and dares involving the Radley place, the kids are distracted when Scout's father, Atticus, finally arrives home.

Atticus is a lawyer in their small town, and has had a long day. Before he has time to relax, however, he puts an end to the children's pestering of Boo Radley, accepts a final payment from a client, Mr. Cunningham, in the form of turnip greens, and endures two interrogations—one from Jem about football and one from Scout about his current client. She's heard rumblings at school that her father is defending Tom Robinson, a black man, in an upcoming trial. Tom has been accused of attacking a white woman, Mayella Ewell. Atticus confirms that he's defending Tom and encourages Scout to stay strong and keep her head no matter what happens.

A few weeks later, a mad dog is seen walking towards the Finch house. Panicked, Calpurnia calls Atticus for help and warns all the neighbors. While Calpurnia informs the Radleys, Scout and Jem watch for their father to arrive with help. Atticus brings the town sheriff, Heck Tate, to take care of the situation, but Heck passes the shotgun off to Atticus, shocking Jem and Scout.

After the mad dog has been taken care of, Jem and Scout have a new opinion of their father. Awed at his bravery, they wander down their street. As they pass Mrs. Dubose's house, she begins picking on the children. When she says nasty things about Atticus, Jem loses it and destroys Mrs. Dubose's flowers. Dill arrives, and he and Scout watch Jem. Soon Atticus arrives to find out what's going on. He explains that Mrs. Dubose shouldn't have said those things, but that didn't give Jem the right to attack her home. He demands that Jem go apologize to the old woman, and even insists that Jem read to her a few hours a day as payment for his actions.

Heck Tate then pays Atticus a visit to inform him that Tom has been moved to the county jail and there could be trouble. As Heck leaves, Atticus sends the children to bed and then departs the house carrying a chair, extension cord and light bulb. After dinner, Jem, Scout, and Dill sneak into town to find out what Atticus is up to. They discover Atticus sitting in front of the jailhouse reading a newspaper. However, he is not alone long, as a group of angry men arrive on the hunt for Tom Robinson. Before things turn nasty, Scout approaches and begins speaking to a man she recognizes, Mr. Cunningham. After speaking to Scout, Mr. Cunningham convinces the other men to leave. With this, Atticus and the children return home as well.

The next Monday, Tom Robinson's trial begins. Despite Atticus' warnings, Jem, Scout and Dill make their way to the courthouse to see what happens. They have trouble getting in, so they go with Reverend Sykes to sit in the balcony. First up to the witness stand is Heck Tate, who reveals that he was called to the Ewell house when Mayella was supposedly attacked. She identified Tom as her attacker, and the sheriff arrested him. Questioned



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further about Mayella's condition, he remembers that the right side of her face was banged up and she had bruises around her neck.

Next, Bob Ewell takes the stand. He agrees with everything the sheriff said about the night in question. Atticus also asks Mr. Ewell to write his name on a piece of paper, and when he does, it is revealed that he is left handed. In the balcony, Jem sees this as a winning moment, since Mayella would have been beaten by someone left handed if her injuries were indeed on the right side of her face.

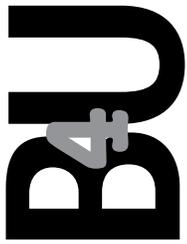
Following Mr. Ewell, his daughter, Mayella, takes the stand. She confirms that Tom attacked her, however, when Tom stands up, everyone sees that his left hand is crippled. When Tom finally takes the stand, he tells a much different story than Mayella and Bob. During Tom's testimony, Dill grows very upset because of the unkind way in which Mr. Gilmer treats Tom. After Atticus completes his eloquent final argument, Calpurnia arrives looking for Jem and Scout. Although not happy that the children disobeyed him, Atticus says they can all come back to hear the verdict after dinner.

When Calpurnia and the children return to the courthouse for the verdict, Scout notices that the jury will not look at Tom, which she takes as a bad sign. Scout's worries prove true when Judge Taylor announces a guilty verdict. After the trial, many are upset and Bob Ewell makes terrible threats towards Atticus.

Following the trial, Tom is moved to the Enfield Prison Farm, and Bob Ewell's threats continue. Finally, one stormy night, Jem and Scout are attacked by Bob Ewell outside of the Radley house. An unexpected hero emerges when Boo Radley comes to Jem and Scout's rescue, fighting off Bob, who has come at the kids with a knife. In the darkness, no one is quite sure what's happening, but when the commotion clears, Bob is dead. When Heck Tate arrives to assess the situation, he decides that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife, without any interference from either Jem or Boo. As Scout walks Boo home after everything has settled down, she is able to see the world from his point of view and understand that most people are good when you finally get to know them.



Camera still from the 1962 Oscar-winning film adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*



# THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Although the Finch family was not not as affected by the Great Depression as many Americans were, we can still see the influence of the Great Depression in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The community's struggle is evident in characters like Mr. Cunningham, who is forced to pay Atticus for his legal services with items such as firewood and turnip greens. The Ewell family has a very rough life, living in extreme poverty. Let's take a look at the Great Depression and its place in American history.

The Great Depression began in October 29, 1929, or Black Tuesday as it's now known, when prices on the New York Stock Exchange plummeted, resulting in an estimated \$9 billion loss in one day. This dramatic economic downturn brought an abrupt end to the prosperity of the 1920s and sparked years of suffering and starvation for many Americans. Previous economic downturns had seemed to quickly right themselves, bringing business and daily life back to normal for the American people. Therefore, many business and political leaders announced that the Depression would soon be over. In fact, in May 1930 President Herbert Hoover declared, "I am convinced we have passed the worst."

Unfortunately, President Hoover was very wrong. The Depression only continued to worsen. Stock prices continued to fall, resulting in the loss of \$74 billion in investments in just two years. Banks failed by the thousands. Businesses went bankrupt. Unemployment skyrocketed, reaching a peak of 25% of Americans unemployed in 1933. Even those who managed to keep their jobs barely earned enough money to survive. For example, in Pennsylvania sawmill workers earned only five cents an hour.

All of this economic upheaval affected the daily lives of Americans. People lost their jobs and some remained unemployed for years. Due to job loss and

low wages, many families were forced to live together in tight quarters, with parents, grandparents and even grown children crowding into one home or apartment. Sometimes multiple families even shared living spaces. Writer Louis Adamic observed that the Depression broke up or seriously disorganized some families, while other families "became more closely integrated than they had been before."

Even children were greatly affected by the Great Depression. Many children went hungry, and some even developed diseases associated with malnutrition like rickets and pellagra. Children's education suffered, with many forced to stay home and assist with housekeeping duties, just like Mayella Ewell. Some children also began to work outside the home in order to earn money to provide for their families.

Things slowly began to turn around when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932. President Roosevelt introduced the New Deal, a series of reforms and government regulations meant to improve the economy. As part of the New Deal many organizations were created to improve the lives of Americans, such as the Works Projects Administration (WPA). The WPA was formed in 1935 and employed millions of unemployed Americans to carry out public works projects, like constructing roads and buildings. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Bob Ewell was employed on a WPA project, lost his job, and then tried to blame Atticus for that loss.

Recovery from the Great Depression began in earnest in 1933. However, it took until the end of the decade for the United States to return, financially at least, to where it was prior to Black Tuesday in 1929.



The Pearce family at their house at the height of the Depression.

Newspix / Newspix/REX  
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Left: Thousands of unemployed workers, who marched from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C., are gathered in front of the Capitol to ask the Congress and the U.S. President for aid, in January 1932, during the Great Depression in the United States.

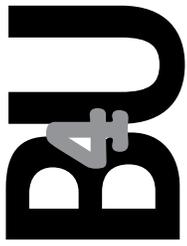
AP



Right: Fred Bell, a one-time millionaire and now unemployed, sells apples at his stand on a busy street corner in San Francisco, Ca., on March 7, 1931 during the Great Depression.

AP





# CIVIL RIGHTS

Another piece of American history that plays a big role in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and continues to affect us today is Civil Rights. In order to understand how the tensions between the white and black citizens of Maycomb came to be, we have to go back in time—way back—to the eighteenth century.

## THE US CONSTITUTION

When the United States declared itself independent in 1776, slavery was a part of daily life. In 1788, when the United States ratified the Constitution, Congress allowed slavery to continue, even establishing a 20-year ban on the abolishment of slavery. To add insult to injury, Congress also included the three-fifths rule, declaring that slaves are counted as only three-fifths of a person in the population.

## THE ROAD TO THE CIVIL WAR

In 1808, the year slavery could have been addressed, the opportunity came and went. The practice of slavery in the United States continued on. However, as the United States grew, the Missouri Compromise of 1820 brought the first bit of hope: although slavery was permitted in Missouri, slavery was prohibited in parts of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1857, things took a turn for the worse when the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans, freed or enslaved, were not citizens of the United States in the case *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. As tensions grew between those who wanted slavery and those who opposed it, the Civil War broke out in 1861.

## THE CIVIL WAR

In January of 1861, seven Southern states who were pro-slavery seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America (which later

grew to include 11 states). When these Confederates attacked Fort Sumter in April 1861, the Civil War began between the Confederacy and the Union, the northern states who were still part of the US. As the fighting continued, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, abolishing slavery in the states in the Confederacy. After the fighting between the Union and the Confederacy ended in 1865, around 700,000 soldiers were dead, as was slavery. Slavery was officially abolished throughout the entire United States in 1865 with the passing of the 13th Amendment.

## RECONSTRUCTION

After the Civil War, Reconstruction began. Southern states were readmitted to the Union, while various attempts were made to amend the inequalities slavery left in its wake. In the South, however, African Americans still suffered thanks to Black Codes: laws that restricted the freedoms of black people and also guaranteed that black people would continue to provide cheap labor. For example, vagrancy laws required former slaves to sign labor contracts, and if a person broke their contract or stepped out of line even a little bit, they were arrested and forced to do labor, often on plantations.

These Black Codes upset many in the North, leading to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which guaranteed equal rights for all, regardless of former enslavement. The passing of the 14th Amendment quickly followed in 1868, granting citizenship to all people born in the United States. Two years later, black men gained another win—the right to vote with the passing of the 15th Amendment.



## SEPARATE BUT EQUAL

Despite the progress made toward equality through the late 1860s, Jim Crow laws began to affect black people in the South. Jim Crow was the name of a minstrel show (popular shows of comedy and musical skits during which white people dressed up in blackface) and became a derogatory term for black people. These Jim Crow laws enforced segregation of blacks and whites in all aspects of life, from school and church to restrooms and drinking fountains.

Specifically, one of these Jim Crow laws in Louisiana, called the Separate Car Act, stated that railroads must provide "separate but equal accommodations" for white and black passengers. Homer Plessy, a man who was only one-eighth African American, bought a railway ticket and then refused to sit in the colored section of the train. Plessy was then charged with

violating the Separate Car Act, and his case, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, landed in front of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that this segregation was not unconstitutional, causing the doctrine "separate but equal" to rule for the next 50 years.

It is in this period of "separate but equal" that we find *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We see this separation in the courtroom, when Jem, Scout and Dill sit in the balcony section with Reverend Sykes. As time progressed, more and more people began to fight back against separate but equal following in the steps of Homer Plessy. Activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. engaged in peaceful protest for the rights of all African Americans. In 1964, another Civil Rights Act was passed, outlawing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Though we continue to take steps forward, the fight for Civil Rights still continues today.



# IRL

As illustrated in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, discrimination existed in 1935 and continues to exist today. Not just discrimination against people because of race, but discrimination because of gender, sexual orientation, age and even social inequality. Laws like Jim Crow and Black Codes once reinforced discrimination against African Americans, but laws have also reinforced discrimination against women and LGBTQ people. Although these laws have improved and have increased equality for all people, discrimination still exists in many forms. So, what can we do about it?

To begin with, let's think about where discrimination comes from. As we learned in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, discrimination can start because we don't understand someone. Maycomb did not take the time to get to know Tom Robinson and understand his side of the story, they just saw that he was different, so they assumed that he was in the wrong. However, just because people look different than us or were raised differently than us does not mean that

they are bad or wrong, it just means that we have to work a little harder to understand them. We cannot rely on stereotypes or fictional portrayals of people to get to know a living, breathing human being. Next time you meet someone new, do not just assume that because someone is a girl they love make-up and One Direction, try talking to them to discover who they really are—what they like, what they dream about, and even what scares them.

Ending discrimination takes more than just understanding other people. Once we get to know our neighbors near and far, we have to begin to be considerate of their views and beliefs. We may not always get it right, but exercising our muscles of understanding and consideration will help us learn to say and do the right things to support others.

***How can you begin to better understand people in your community? Can you think of ways to be more inclusive of diverse members of your community?***

# RBT

## INNOCENCE

One of Atticus' rules in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is to never kill a mockingbird because it's a sin. Although Scout may not quite grasp the meaning of this at the beginning of the play, after seeing an innocent man found guilty of a crime he didn't commit and witnessing Boo's purity, she realizes the true meaning of Atticus' words. Scout finally learns that it's not the mockingbird itself that needs to be protected, but the innocence and beauty of something that has done nothing to harm or upset anyone. In fact, Scout herself is like a mockingbird. She is a young, innocent girl, but because her father defended Tom Robinson, Bob Ewell decides to attack her and Jem. Luckily, Boo Radley intervenes to protect the children who cannot protect themselves. **Can you think of someone or something in your life that needs protection like a mockingbird?**

## EMPATHY

Another lesson that Atticus preaches throughout the play is to consider things from other people's points of view. Each character in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, has their own unique struggles and obstacles that shape how they approach the world. For example, Mrs. Dubose is suffering from great pain, but is attempting to end her addiction to morphine before she dies. Because of this pain, she comes off as very angry and rude to Scout and Jem. However, if Scout and Jem had known about her situation and then followed Atticus' advice and imagined what it would feel like to be in Mrs. Dubose's shoes, then perhaps the children would understand her feelings and actions better. **How could imagining life in other people's shoes help improve your relationships with your friends and family?**





# HARPER LEE

Nelle Harper Lee was born on April 28, 1926, in Monroeville, Alabama. Her mother was Frances Cunningham Finch Lee and her father was Amasa Coleman Lee, a lawyer, state legislator and newspaper editor. Harper Lee was a very private person, so much of the information known about her has been gleaned from her friends and relatives. However, the character Scout is said to be fairly autobiographical, so readers can also gain insight into Lee's childhood through *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Lee grew up with three elder siblings Alice, Louise and Edwin, and was friends with Truman Capote, the writer and actor, who often stayed with his relatives who lived next door to the Lees. Many think Capote was the inspiration for the character of Dill. In high school, Lee developed a strong interest in English literature. Upon graduation, she enrolled at Huntingdon College. However, after a year she transferred to the University of Alabama. While there, Lee wrote pieces for the school's newspaper, and even spent a year as the editor of *Rammer Jammer*, a humor magazine. Lee also enrolled in the University of Alabama's law school while still an undergraduate. After a year, she realized writing was her passion, so she left school and moved to New York City. Alice, Harper's oldest sister, completed law school to become one of Alabama's first female lawyers.

A couple of years after Lee moved to New York City, tragedy struck her family, with her mother and brother dying weeks apart. Lee continued with her city life, working as an airline ticket agent. Luckily, Lee made friends with Broadway composer Michael Brown, who once gave her the best Christmas gift she could have asked for—a year's wages so she could write full-time. Lee insisted that this gift be a loan, which she later repaid. During her year off, Lee put a book together, *Go Set a Watchman*. Publisher J.B. Lippincott was interested in the novel, so with the help of an editor, Lee took the next two years to reshape the story into what we know as *To Kill a Mockingbird*.



In July of 1960, *Mockingbird* was finally published. It received positive reviews and was chosen as a Literary Guild selection and a Reader's Digest condensed version. In 1961, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for literature. The novel was later adapted for the screen. Although Lee did not write the screenplay, she did consult on the film, and even showed Gregory Peck (the actor who portrayed Atticus) around Monroeville. The film won four Academy Awards.

After *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee never wrote another book. She didn't quit writing completely, as she published several articles, and even served as a research assistant for Truman Capote's 1966 novel *In Cold Blood*. Harper Lee's first book, *Go Set a Watchman*, was eventually published in 2015.

Harper Lee led a quiet, private life, splitting her time between New York and Monroeville. She never married and lived most of her adult life with her sister Alice. In 2016, Lee passed away at the age of 89.

# CHRISTOPHER SERGEL

Christopher Sergel's life was varied and interesting. He spent two years in the South Pacific as captain of the schooner *Chance*, served as a lieutenant commander during World War II, and even lived in the African bush for a year serving as a writer for *Sports Afield* magazine. Of course, Sergel spent time in the theatre as well, as a playwright of over a dozen plays, and as president of Dramatic Publishing Company. Among the plays Sergel wrote, many were adaptations, including *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Up the Down Staircase* and *Winnesburg, Ohio*. Sergel passed away in 1993, and hoped to be remembered as "a true friend and a good writer."

# SWDY?

**Scout:** *Most people think they're right and you're wrong.*

**Atticus:** *They're entitled to that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions. But before I can live with other folks, I've got to live with myself. ... One thing doesn't abide by majority rule, honey: a person's conscience.*

Scout doesn't understand her father's need to stand up for Tom Robinson, even though the whole town seems to be against him. Atticus tries to explain that right and wrong is something you feel inside, not hear from the opinions of others. What's right and wrong has to be something each person decides for him or herself. Have you had times that it seemed like everyone disagreed with your way of thinking? Did you stand your ground, or did you give in to peer pressure? How did your decision make you feel?

**Mayella:** *Won't answer a word you say long as you keep on mockin' me.*

**Atticus:** *Ma'am?*

**Mayella:** *Long's you keep on callin' me ma'am and Miss Mayella.*

**Judge:** *That's just Mr. Finch's way. We've done business in this court for years, and Mr. Finch is always courteous. He's not trying to mock you, he's trying to be polite.*

Mayella has been treated so poorly for so long, that she can't even recognize it when someone is being kind to her. Her life has been hard, and she's been changed by the way people have treated her every day. Do you know someone who isn't treated very well? How has it affected their outlook? Have you witnessed someone being mistreated? What can you do to help?

**Dill:** *I think I'm beginning to understand why Boo Radley stays shut up in that house—it's because he wants to stay inside.*

**Scout:** *That doesn't make any sense.*

**Dill:** *Maybe he found out the way people can go outta their way to despise each other.*

Dill becomes quite upset in the courtroom when he witnesses the way people treat Tom Robinson. He seems not to have ever seen that sort of behavior before, and it affects him greatly. Have you ever seen someone treat another person the way Mr. Gilmer treats Tom? How did it make you feel?

**Atticus:** *I was glad she asked you to read to her. I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.*

Jem didn't understand Mrs. Dubose until Atticus explained her situation. She was fighting a battle most people knew nothing about, and was brave enough to fight on her own. There are many clear types of bravery in the world that we see every day, but there are even more quiet, unseen actions of bravery. Have you ever seen someone who was silently brave? What did they face? How did they fight? What would you do if you were in that situation?