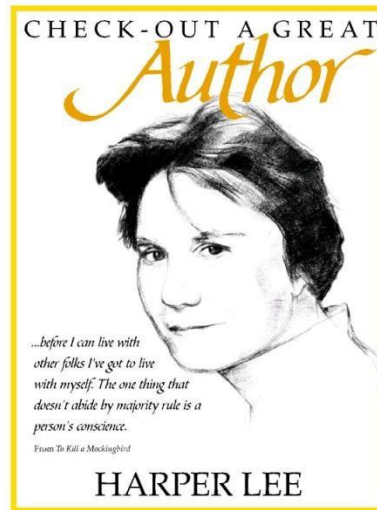


To Kill A Mockingbird Nelle Harper Lee Week 1: March 24, 2015



R417

Tuesday 11:50-1:15

Instructor: Donna Carducci Macurdy

dfmacurdy@verizon.net

Agenda

R417 –TKM– Spring 2015

1. Format for class:

Day 1 & Day 2: Lecture/Video – Background Information (Author/Time Period)

Days 3-8: Lecture Notes on Chapters

Discussion Small Groups

Viewing Film TKM

2. Handout:

* Syllabi/Reading Schedule [for those who had not received one]

3. Lecture:

- **Notes on: Author: Harper Lee**

Viewing: Chapter 1: New York (Harper Lee's response to the Novel)

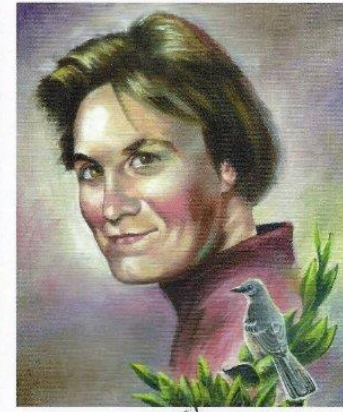
* Video Excerpt from: Hey Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill A Mockingbird

- **Notes on Novel – To Kill A Mockingbird**

- Characters in the Novel; Setting of the Novel; Critical Response to Novel.

4. Literary Term: Elements of a Classic Novel

5. Wrap-Up – Online Resources for the study



Early Life

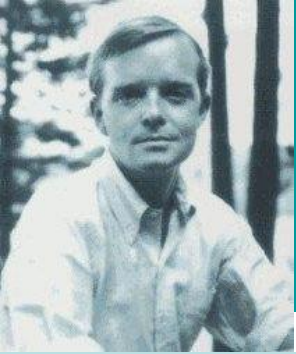
- Born Nelle Harper Lee on April 28, 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama
- Youngest of Amasa & Frances Finch Lee's children
 - Father was a former newspaper editor and proprietor, who had served as a state senator and practiced as a lawyer in Monroeville Alabama
 - Amasa once defended two black men accused of killing a white storekeeper; both men, a father and son, were hanged
- Direct descendent of Robert E. Lee ?
- 1944 Entered Huntingdon College in Montgomery



Law School



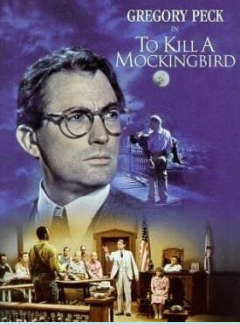
- 1945-1949 Studied Law at University of Alabama
 - Spent a summer at Oxford as an Exchange Student (1947)
 - At Alabama Lee wrote columns, feature stories, and satires for the university newspaper and literary publications
- 1949 - Six months before finishing her studies, Lee went to New York to pursue a literary career
 - Considered her preparation for the law “good training for a writer” because: “the law demands logical, precise thinking and because the cases provide excellent and unlimited source for ideas.”



The Writer: 1950's



- Lee moved to New York City to pursue literary career
- Worked initially as an Airline reservation clerk with Eastern Air Lines and British Overseas Airways
 - Spent her time outside the job writing sketches and short stories; TCM originated as a series of stories
- 1959 Accompanied Truman Capote to Kansas as a research assistant for Capote's classic 'non-fiction' novel In Cold Blood (1966)



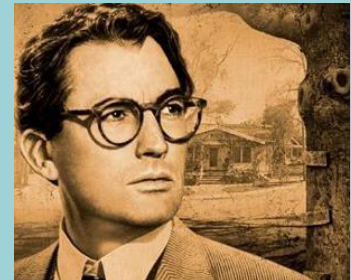
Birth of The Novel To Kill A Mockingbird



- November 1956 Lee found an agent
 - December 1956 with a gift from some friends Lee took a year off to work on her writing
- 1957 Lee submitted a manuscript - a lengthened version of a short story to Tay Hohoff, an editor at J. B. Lippincott a New York publisher
 - Hohoff rejected the manuscript because it: “seemed more like a series of short stories than a unified novel”
- 1958-1959 Lee revised and rewrote the story
 - July 11, 1960 Lee’s expanded short story was published as the novel To Kill A Mockingbird
 - TKM remained on the bestseller list for 85 weeks

Awards/Prizes

- 1961 –TKM was awarded Pulitzer Prize for distinguished fiction
- 1st time, since 1942, that a woman had been given the Pulitzer Prize
- 1962 To Kill A Mockingbird was made into a movie starring Gregory Peck



November 5, 2007

Presidential Medal of Freedom



Critical Response to the Novel

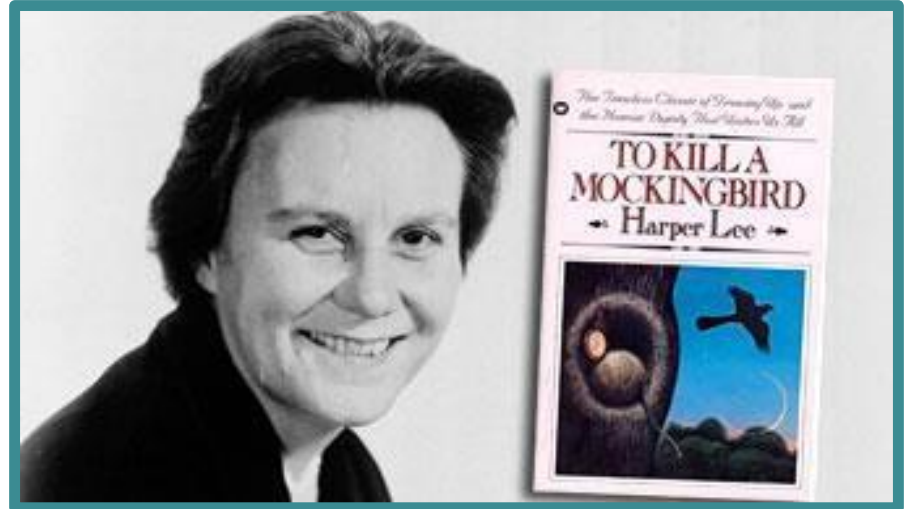
- Richard Sullivan hailed the novel as:
 - “ a first novel...of rare excellence...a story so admirably done that it must be called both honorable and engrossing.”
- Truman Capote wrote:
 - “Lee is somewhat rare as a writer...a writer with the liveliest sense of life, and the warmest most authentic humor.”

Harper Lee's Response To the Novel

"I never expected any sort of success with *Mockingbird*. I was hoping for a quick and merciful death at the hands of the reviewers but, at the same time, I sort of hoped someone would like it enough to give me encouragement.

Public encouragement. I hoped for a little, as I said, but I got rather a whole lot, and in some ways this was just about as frightening as the quick, merciful death I'd expected. "

(Newquist, Roy, editor (1964).
Counterpoint. Chicago: Rand McNally)



Video Excerpt

Chapter 1: Hey Boo: Harper Lee by Mary McDonagh Murphy



The Rest of the Story
Sequel: Go Set Watchman
Release Date: July 14, 2015

2007 (?) – Harper Lee “has a stroke...and is “by all accounts, almost completely deaf and blind...residing in an assisted-living facility [in Monroeville]“

2013 – Tonja Carter [an associate of Alice’s) “takes over representation of Harper when Alice, the novelist’s older sister, housemate, lawyer/ lifelong protector – becomes infirm.”

July 15, 2014 Marja Mills publishes “The Mockingbird Next Door”

November 17, 2014: Alice Lee dies at the age of 103

February 3, 2015: Announcement: “Harper Lee to publish a second novel”

Response to the Announcement:

Carter “says her client reversed her decades-old stance (a vow that she would never publish again) when Carter stumbled upon a copy of Watchman ..”

Lee is “delighted to see that news of the impending publication of the novel has shot “Watchman” to the top of the bestseller list.”

Public Response to the Announcement:

“People have questioned the story, wondering if a person in Lee’s declining health can be said to have given reflective consideration to a manuscript she wrote 58 years ago.”

Source: Neely Tucker “To Shill a Mockingbird, Washington Post February 17, 2015

Resource:

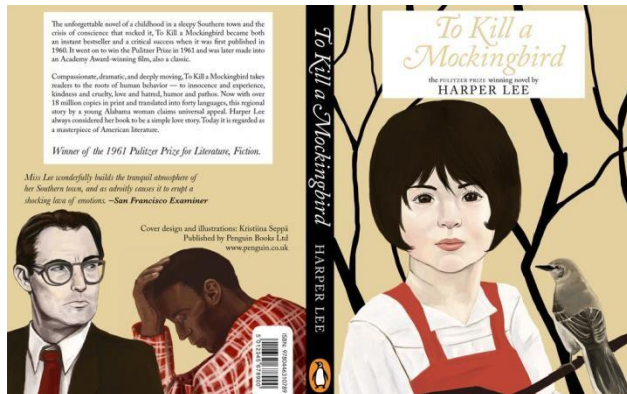
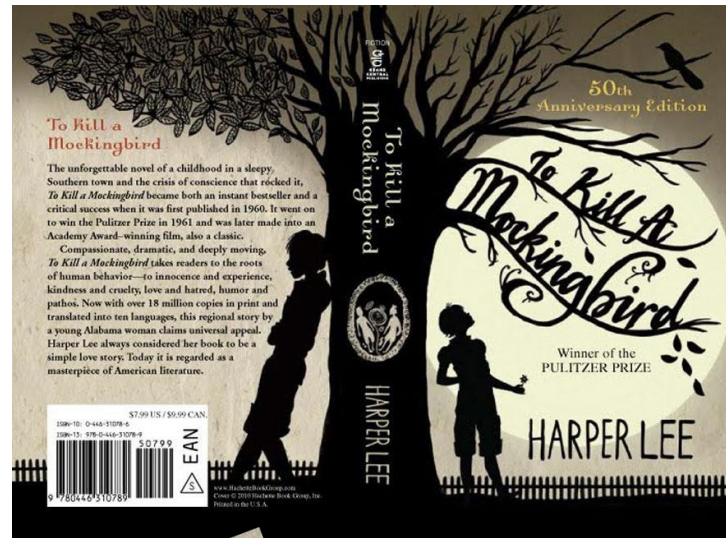
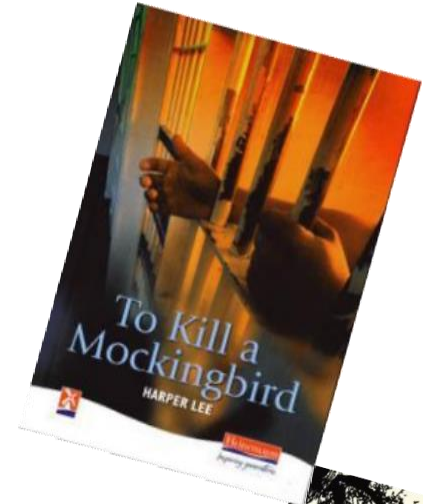
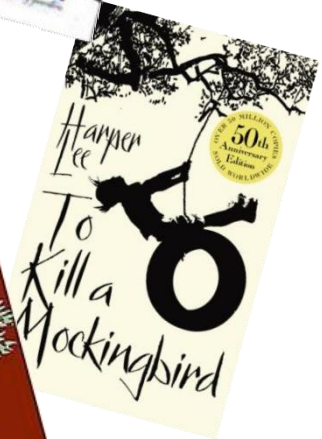
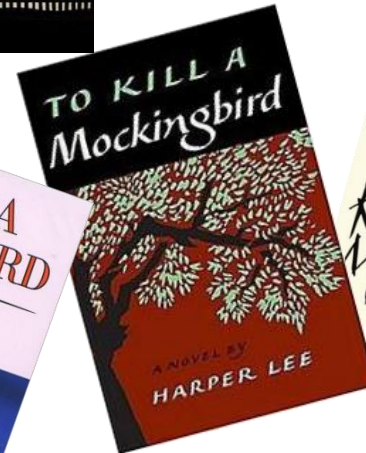
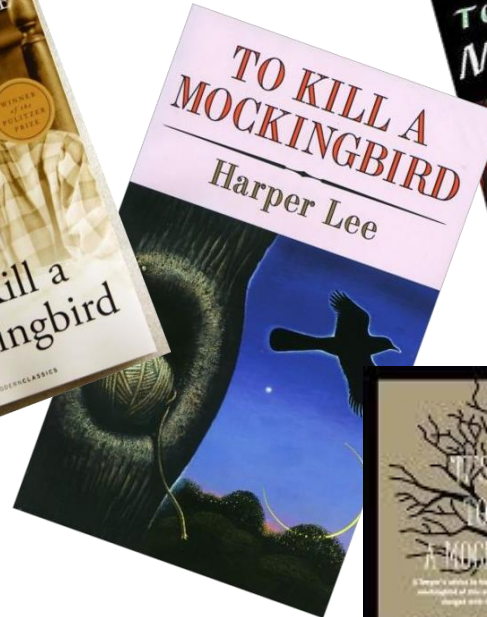
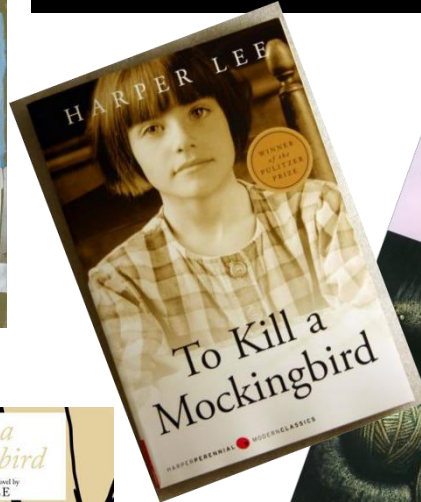
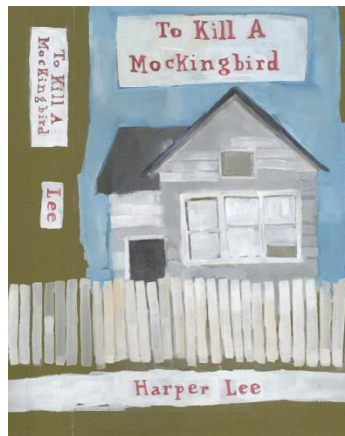
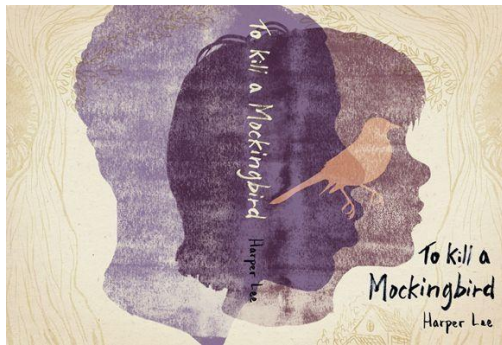
“To Shill a Mockingbird: How a the Discovery of a Manuscript became Harper Lee’s ‘new’ novel”

Written by: Neely Tucker

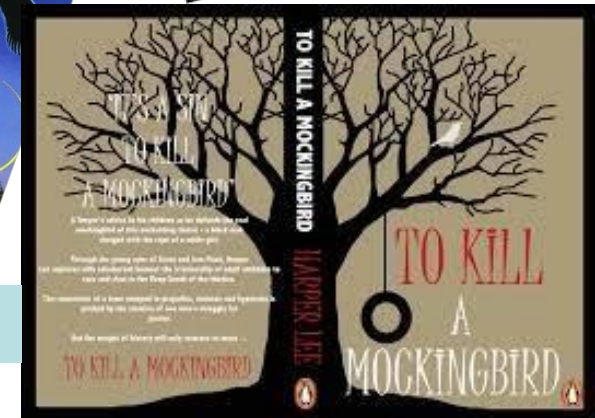
Washington Post; February 17, 2015



http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/to-shill-a-mockingbird-how-the-discovery-of-a-manuscript-became-harper-lees-new-novel/2015/02/16/48656f76-b3b9-11e4-886b-c22184f27c35_story.html



Notes on the Novel



Novel Setting: Location

Timeframe:
1933-1935

Locations:
Fictional town named Maycomb

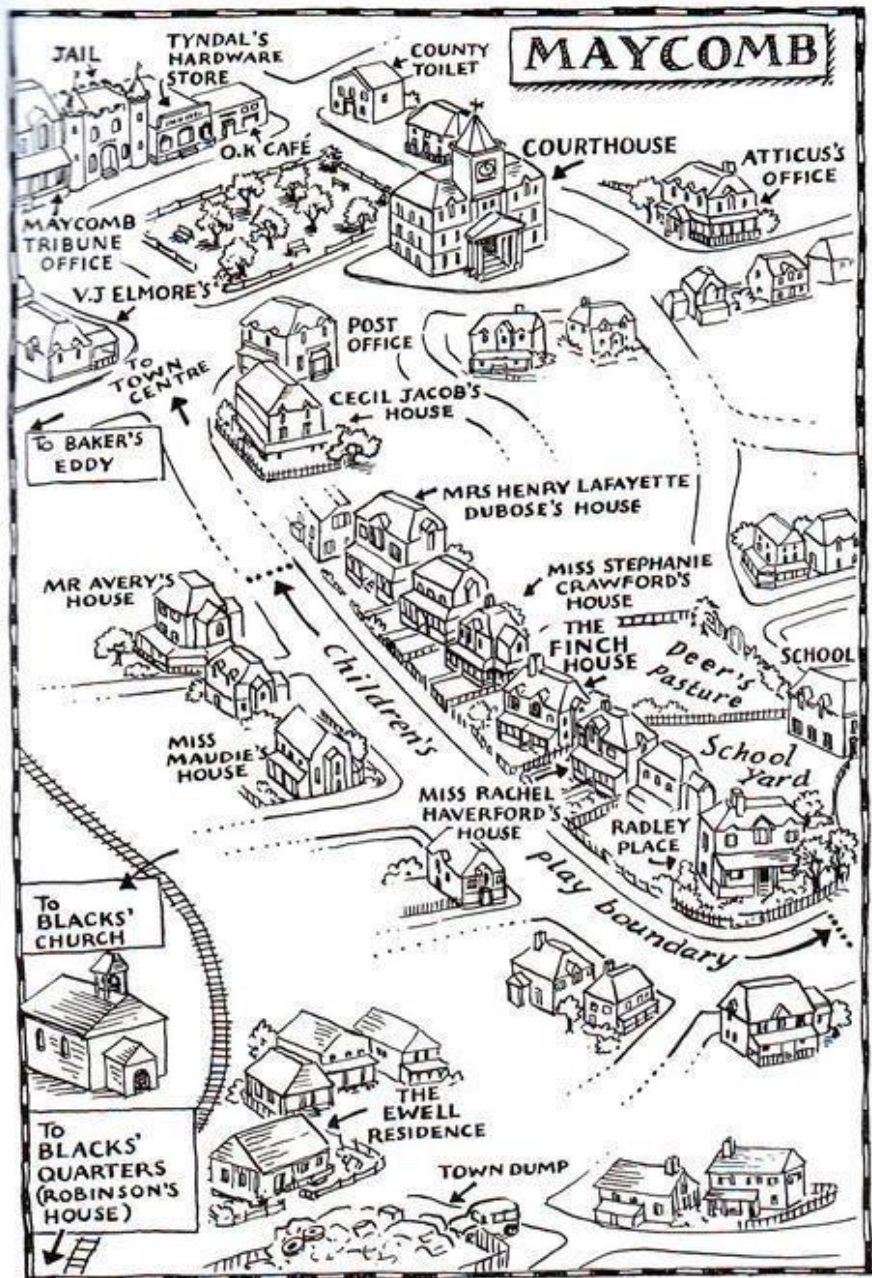
"The setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, is based on the name of Harper Lee's home town Monroeville.

After the American Civil War the abolition of slavery had changed the legal position of Blacks in American society. This freedom initially made Blacks' lives much harder.

The **Whites** saw the **Blacks** as potential competitors for jobs, particularly in the hard years of the Great Economic Depression during to which *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set.

It is also said in the book that the town was so small that Atticus, a lawyer and a father of two, is related, by either blood or marriage, to most of the people living in the small town.

Since the Cunningham's were farmers, the Great Depression hurt them the most. This is why they are very poor and they can only eat what they can catch"
(10goldmockingbird.wikispaces.com)



Main Characters



Scout



Calpurnia



Tom Robinson



Atticus



Jem



Dill

BooRadley



Scout's Character Traits

- Tomboy
- Impulsive
- Emotional
- Warm & Friendly
- Sensitive
- Adorable
- Gains in Maturity



Similarities BTW Lee and Scout

Harper Lee

- Older brother and young neighbor (Truman Capote) are playmates
- Avid reader



Scout

- Older brother and young neighbor (Dill) are playmates
- Scout reads before she enters school; reads *Mobile Register* newspaper in 1st grade

Similarities Cont'd

Harper Lee

- Six years old when Scottsboro trials were covered in state and local newspapers

Scout

- Six years old when the trial of Tom Robinson takes place

Atticus Finch

- A widower
- Single Father
- A defense attorney by profession
- Highly respected
- Good citizen
- Instills good values and morals in his children.
- His children call him “Atticus”
- Honest
- Typical southern gentleman
- Brave
- Courteous
- Soft-spoken



Jem Finch

- Scout's older brother
- Looks up to his father Atticus
- Usually looks out for Scout
- Typical older brother at times
- Smart
- Compassionate
- Likes to read magazines
- Plays football
- Matures as story progresses



Calpurnia



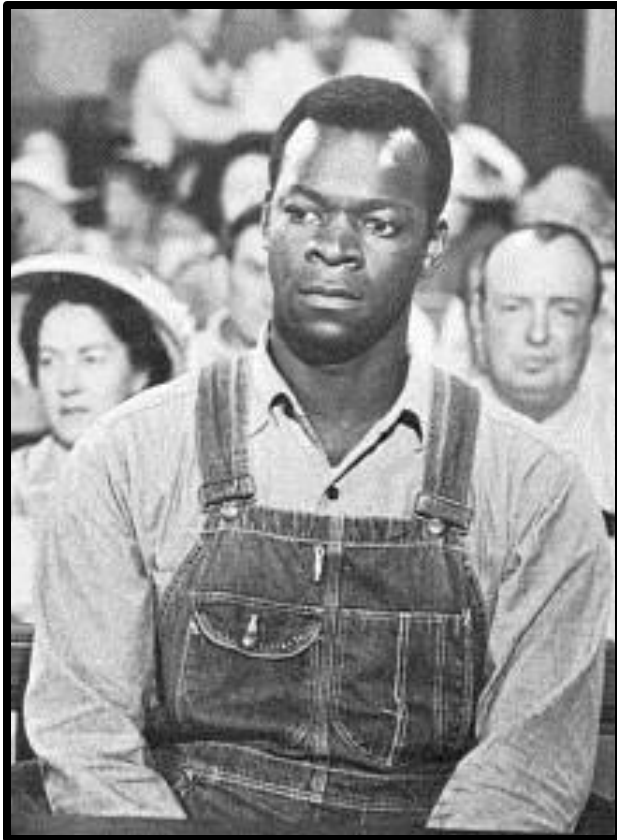
- The Finch's housekeeper
- Has watched the children since their mother's death
- Has been a positive influence on the children
- Serves as a mother figure For Jem and Scout



Arthur “Boo” Radley

- An enigma
- An adult man, whose father has “sentenced” him to a lifetime confinement to their house because of some mischief he got into when he was a teenager.
- Has a reputation of being a lunatic
- Basically a harmless, well-meaning person
- Sometimes childlike in behavior
- Starving for love and affection
- Saves Jem and Scout from certain danger

Tom Robinson



- A young, harmless, innocent, hardworking black man
- Has a crippled left hand
- Married with three children. Works on a farm belonging to Mr. Link Deas, a white man
- Will be falsely accused of raping a white girl, Mayella Ewell

Dill (Charles Baker Harris)

- A close friend of Jem and Scout from Meridian Mississippi
- Usually lives in Maycomb only during the summer
 - stays with aunt his Miss Rachel
- Tells “big stories”
- Has been deprived of love and affection



Other Characters in TKM

- Mayella Ewell – Accused Tom Robinson of Rape



- Mr. Ewell- Father of Mayella



- Helen Robinson – wife of Tom Robinson



- Miss Caroline – Scout's teacher



- Braxton Underwood – Newspaper Writer



Other Characters in TKM

- Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose – Neighbor who harasses the children



- Heck Tate – local sheriff in Maycomb County



- Judge Taylor – oversees Robinson Trial



- Miss Stephanie Crawford – neighbor who gossips

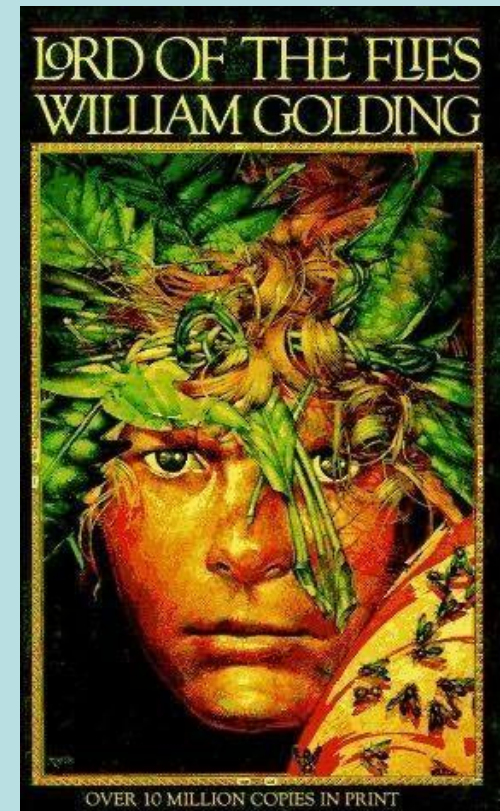
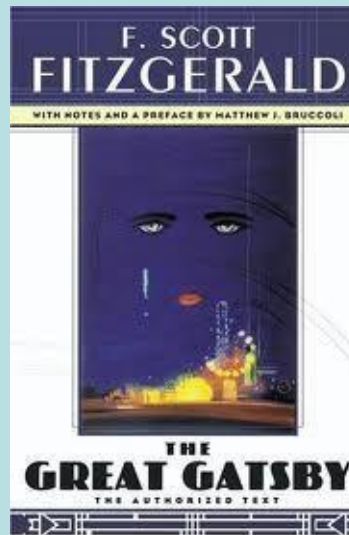
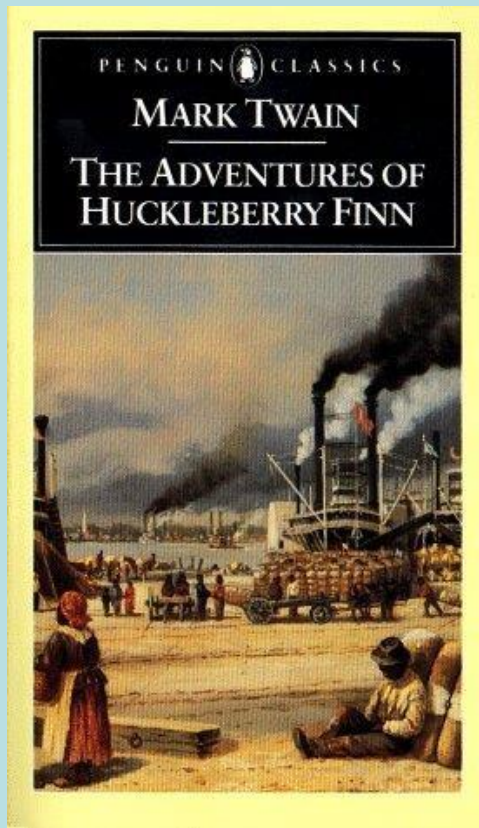


- Miss Maudie – neighbor who loves to garden



Literary Term: Classic Novel Characteristics/Traits

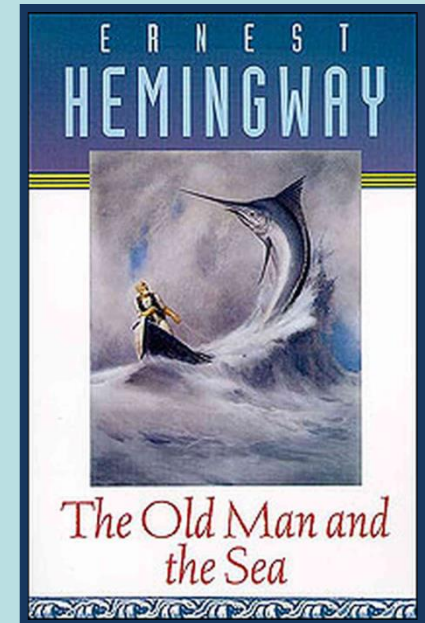
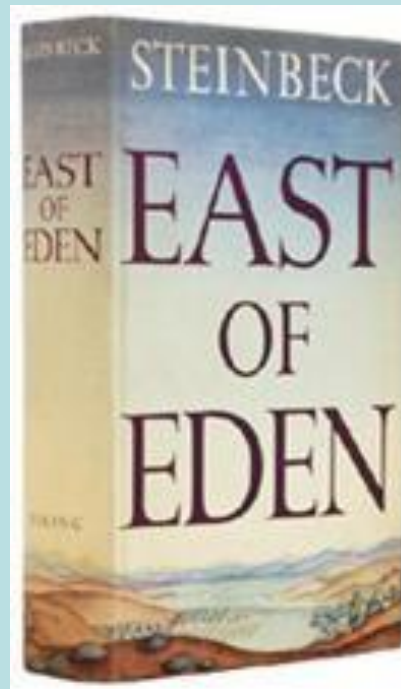
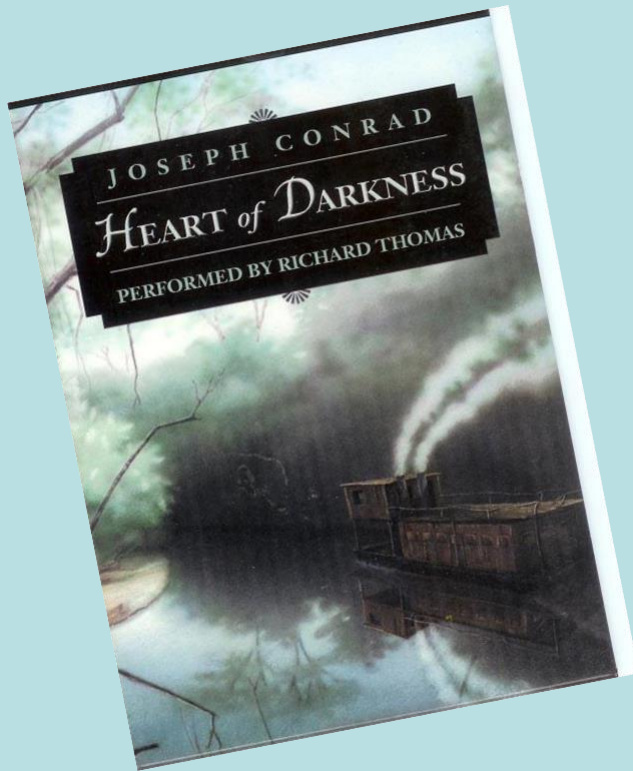
Presents a picture of a time period



Literary Term: Classic Novel

Characteristics/Traits

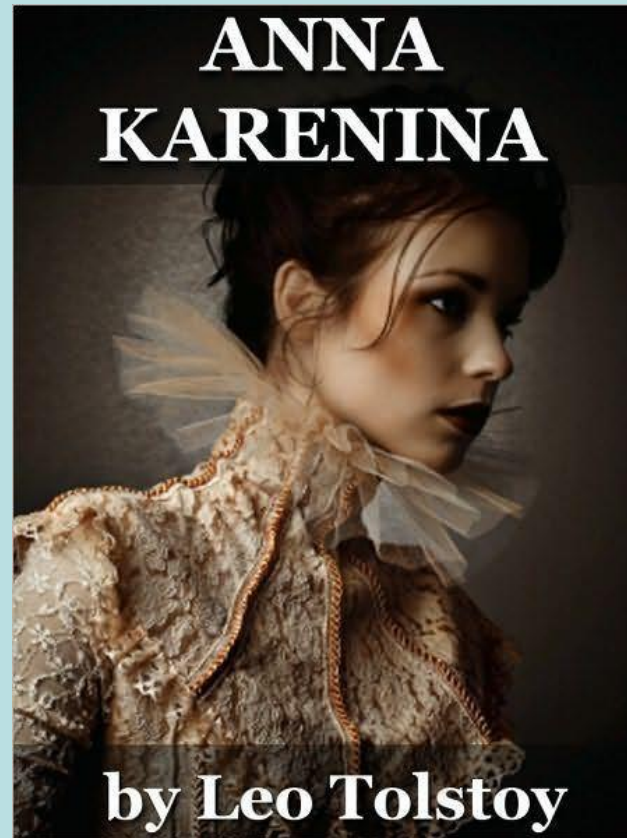
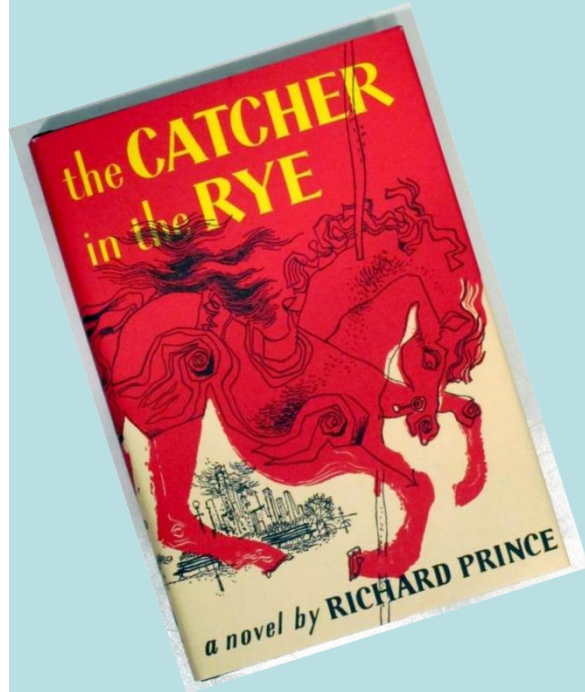
Uses language in an exceptional way



Literary Term: Classic Novel

Characteristics/Traits

Presents Universal Theme



One Final Word: American Masters

Outtakes from Hey Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill A Mockingbird

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/about-the-documentary/1972>

#1 James McBride author of: *The Color of Water* (Racism and TKM)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/outtakes-james-mcbride/2001/>

#2 Richard Russo author of: *Empire Falls* (Character in TKM)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/outtakes-richard-russo/2003/>

#3 Outtakes: Allan Gurganus author of: *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and *The Practical Heart* (Setting/Point of View in TKM)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/outtakes-allan-gurganus/2005/>

#4: Outtakes: Mark Childress author of *Crazy in Alabama* (Racism in TKM)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/outtakes-mark-childress/2007/>

#5 Wally Lamb author of: *I Know This Much is True* (Voice in TKM)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/harper-lee-hey-boo/outtakes-wally-lamb/2009/>