

To Kill A Mockingbird
The Trial
Week 6: April 28, 2015



R 417
Tuesday 11:50-1:15
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Week 6: The Trial

Agenda

1. Announcements: Class Liason
2. Icebreaker: Chapter 16 (Pre-Trial/Trial) Response ?'s
3. Instructor Notes: Chapter 16-20
 - Literary Techniques:
 - Aphorisms
 - Literary Allusions
4. Small Group Discussion Chapters 16-20
5. Viewing: Film To Kill A Mockingbird (The Trial)
6. Wrap-Up: Similarities/Difference btw. Movie/Book
 - Resource: Aphorism from Transcendental Writers Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau
 - Vanity Fair Article: To Steala Mockingbird (2013)
<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2013/08/harper-lee-dispute-royalties>



Reader Response: Chapter 16



Following the night's events in Chapter 15 when Scout confronts the mob, Scout and Jem make their way home.

Upon their arrival Scout tells the reader:

“Jem took me to his room and put me in bed beside him. “Try to go to sleep he said. “It’ll be all over after tomorrow, maybe.”

We had come in quietly, so as not to wake Aunty. Atticus killed the engine in the driveway and coasted to the carhouse; we went in the back door and to our rooms without a word.

I was very tired, and was drifting into sleep when the memory of Atticus calmly folding his newspaper and pushing back his hat became Atticus standing in the middle of an empty waiting street, pushing up his glasses.

The full meaning of the night's events hit me and I began crying.”



Reader Response: Chapter 16



Later on in the scene Scout questions Atticus about Mr. Cunningham and her surprise at seeing him as part of the mob.

“I thought Mr. Cunningham was a friend of ours. You told me a long time ago he was.” Scout says.

“He still is”. Atticus responded

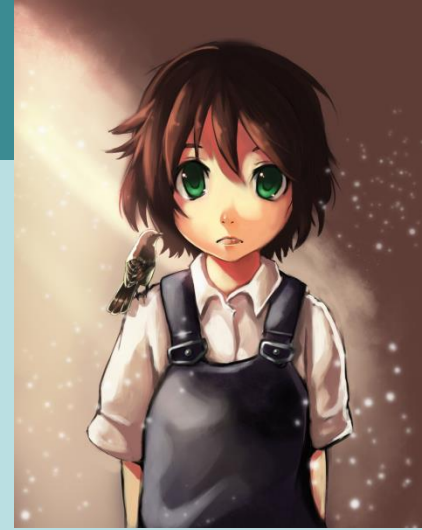
“But last night he wanted to hurt you.” Scout added.

Atticus placed his fork beside his knife and pushed his plate aside.” Mr. Cunningham’s basically a good man”, he said, “he just had his blind spots along with the rest of us.”

Jem spoke. “Don’t call that a blind spot. He’d killed you last night when he first went there.”

“He might have hurt me a little, Atticus conceded, “but son....a mob’s always made up of people no matter what. Mr. Cunningham was part of a mob last night, but he was still a man.”

Reader Response ?'s



1. What is Scout remembering i.e., at what other point in the novel does Atticus “stand in the middle of an empty street.”?
2. How does Jem’s treatment of Scout, and his response to Atticus about Mr. Cunningham reflect his maturity?
- 3.. What does Atticus mean when he tell Scout “Mr. Cunningham along with the rest of us has blind spots” ?
4. What lessons about human nature does Atticus want Scout and Jem to take away from the jail scene?

Notes on Chapters 16-20

1. Chronicle the events leading up to Tom Robinson's trial (Chapter 16)

"It was a gala occasion. There was no room at the public hitching rail for another animal, mules and wagons were parked under every available tree. The courthouse square was covered with picnic parties sitting on newspapers, washing down biscuit and syrup with warm milk from fruit jars. Some people were gnawing on cold chicken and cold fried pork chops. The more affluent chased their food with drugstore Coca-Cola in bulb-shaped soda glasses. Greasy faced children popped the whip through the crowd, and babies lunched at their mothers' breasts. In a far corner of the square the Negroes sat quietly in the sun, dining on sardines, crackers, and the more vivid flavors of Nehi Cola. Mr. Dolphus Raymond sat with them.

"Jem," said Dill, "he's drinkin' out of a sack."

Mr. Dolphus Raymond seemed to be so doing: two yellow drugstore straws ran from his mouth to the depths of a brown paper bag.

"Ain't ever seen anybody do that murmured Dill. "How does he keep what's in it in it?"

Jem giggled. "He's got a Co-Cola bottle full of whiskey in there. " You'll see him sip it all afternoon, he'll step out for a while and fill it back up."



Notes on Chapters 16-20



Chronicle the events of the trial inside the courtroom

Testimony of: Heck Tate

“I asked her who hurt her and she said it was Tom Robinson....[I] asked her if he beat her like that, she said yes he had. Asked her if he took advantage of her and she said yes he did....So I went down to Robinson’s house and brought him back. She identified him as the one, so I took him in. That’s all there was to it.

Testimony of: Bob Ewell (Chapter 17)

“Mr. Ewell,” Atticus began, “folks were doing a lot of running that night...you say you ran into the house, you ran to the window, you ran inside, you ran to Mayella, you ran for Mr. Tate. Did you, during all this running, run for the doctor?”

“Wadn’t no need to. I seen what happened.

Testimony of: Mayella Ewell (Chapter 18)

“I said come here n...and bust up this chiffarobe for me. I gotta nickel for you. He coulda done it easy enough, he could. So he come in the yard an’ I went in the house to get him the nickel and I turned around an ‘fore I knew it he was on me. Just run up behind me, he, did. I fought n’hollered but he had me round the neck. He hit me agin an’ agin.”

“Then what happened?” Mr. Gilmore interrupted.

“I don’t remember too good, but the next thing I knew Papa was in the room..”



Notes on Chapters 16-20



Testimony of: Tom Robinson (Chapter 19)

“Mr. Finch, it was this way last spring. I remember it because it was choppin’ time and I had my hoe with me. I said I didn’t have nothin’ but this hoe, but she said she had a hatchet. She gave me the hatchet and I broke up the chiffarobe. She said, “I reckon I’ll hafta give you a nickel, won’t I? an’ I said, “No ma’am there ain’t no charge.’ Then I went home. Mr. Finch that was way last spring, way over a year ago.”

“Did you ever go on the place again?” Atticus asked.

“Yes suh.” Tom responded

“When?” Atticus countered.

“Well lots of times.” Tom added

“Under what circumstances?” Atticus asked.

“She’d call me in, suh. Seemed like every time I passed by yonder she’d have some little somethin’ for me to do choppin, kindlin, totin water for her. “ Tom said.

“Were you paid for your services?” Atticus questioned.

“ No suh, not after she offered me a nickel the first time. I was glad to do it, Mr. Ewell didn’t seem to help her none, and neither did the chillun, and I knowed she didn’t have no nickel to spare.”

Aphorism in To Kill a Mockingbird

Aphorism: a general truth or observation about life, usually stated in a concise manner.

Example: Fish and Visitors smell in three days. (Ben Franklin)

1. To qualify as an aphorism, it is necessary for a statement to contain a truth revealed in a terse manner.

Example: Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead. (Franklin)

2. Aphoristic statements are also quoted in writings as well as in our daily speech.

Example: God heals and the doctor takes the fee. (Franklin)

3. The fact that they contain a truth gives aphorisms a universal acceptance.

Example: A small leak will sink a great ship. (Franklin)

4. Aphorisms often come with a pinch of humor, which makes them more appealing.

Example: A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over. (Franklin)

“

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 see it through no matter what.

harper lee

Aphorism in To Kill a Mockingbird



Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us.

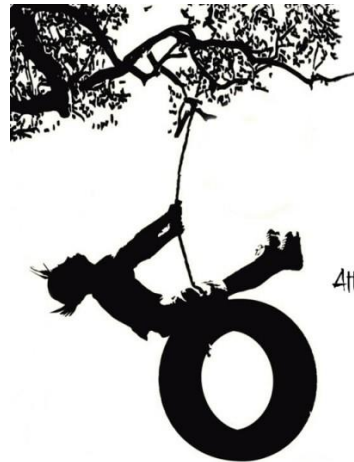


That's why it's
a sin to kill a mockingbird.

—Harper Lee

“Sometimes the Bible in the hand of one man is worse than a whiskey bottle in the hand of another.”

Miss Maudie



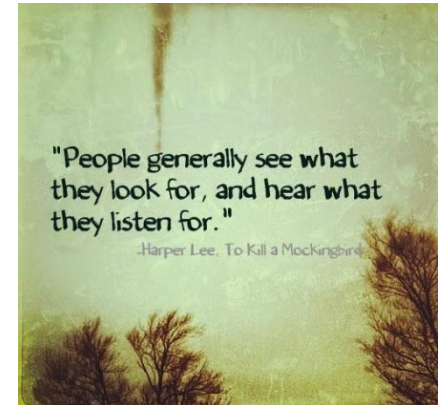
You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.

Atticus Finch -
To Kill A Mockingbird



"People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for."

—Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird



Allusion in To Kill a Mockingbird

Allusion: a reference to a well-known person, place, event, literary work, or work of art; in the use of allusions writers can “bring to mind complex ideas simply and easily.

Types of Allusions:

- **Biblical Allusions:**

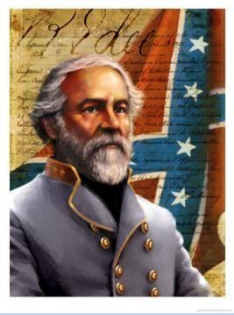
Example: Uncle Jack Finch says we really don't know. He says as far as he can trace back the Finches we ain't, but for all he knows we mighta come straight out of Ethiopia durin' the Old Testament.”

- **Literary Allusions** i.e., reference from another literary work

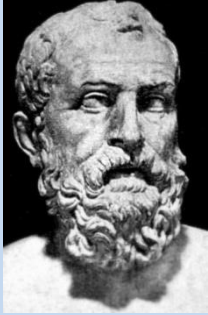
Example: ‘He read in a book where I was a Bullfinch instead of a Finch. Jem says my name's really Jean Louise Bullfinch, that I got swapped when I was born and I'm really a -’

- **Political and or Historical Allusions**

Example: “But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.”



Literary Allusion: Character's Names



Atticus or “Attikos” (English/Greek)

- Used by an Athenian poet and legal reformer Solon
- Solon responsible for democratic law in Athens (559 BC)

Robert E. Lee Ewell

- Robert E. Lee: Civil War general on the Confederate side.
- Confederates represented southern slave states i.e., Ewell's name is reflective of the racism that Bob Ewell embraces

Jean Louise “Scout” Finch (“one who is dispatched from the main body to gather information..to observe/judge”)

- Jeremy Atticus “Jem” Finch (“a beloved or highly prized person”)
- “Arthur ” Boo Radley (Historical allusion to King Arthur)
- Mayella ‘ Violet ’ Ewell – (Connection to Nature)
- Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose (aligned w/ French General Lafayette)
- Miss Maudie – (Celtic) strength in battle, strong in war

APHORISMS FROM EMERSON AND THOREAU

What lies behind us
and what lies before us
are tiny matters...
compared to what lies
within us.
Ralph Waldo Emerson



“If a man does
not keep pace with his
companions, perhaps it
is because he hears a
different drummer.
Let him step to the
music which he hears,
however measured
or far away.”

-Henry David Thoreau
philosopher, writer, author, poet,
born July 12, 1817-1862



If you've built your castles in the air...
your work need not be lost.
That is where they should be.
Now put foundations under them.

-Henry David Thoreau



“IT'S NOT WHAT YOU
LOOK AT THAT
MATTERS. IT'S WHAT
YOU SEE.”
-HENRY DAVID THOREAU

American Literary Period Timeline Overview

