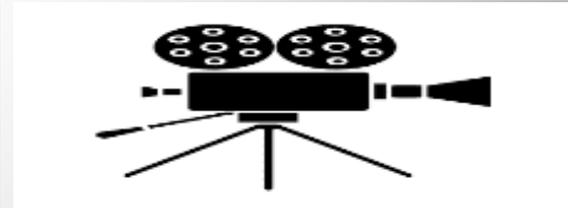


*Harper Lee*

***TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD***



Prepared By:  
Dr. Md Naushad Alam  
Assistant Professor  
P. G. Dept. of English  
MMHAPU

## Harper Lee: An Introduction

*Nelle Harper Lee is an American novelist*

### ❑ **Born:**

*28<sup>th</sup> April, 1926. Alabama, US*

### ❑ **Died:**

*19<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2016. Alabama, US*

### ❑ **Education:**

*University of Alabama*

### ❑ **Genre:**

*Fiction*

### ❑ **Literary Movement:**

*Southern Gothic*

### ❑ **Works:**

*To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)*

*Go Set a Watchman (2015)*



*Harper Lee published her first novel “To Kill a Mockingbird” in 1960. The novel earned her immediate popularity. It won the most prestigious **Pulitzer Prize** for fiction in 1961.*



# To Kill a Mockingbird



- *The novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird” is based on a true incident that took place in 1931. In this incident, nine black teenage boys were accused of rape by two white girls. The trials lasted six years, with convictions, reversals, and numerous retrials. These trials gave birth to various debates about race and racism in America.*
- *Despite the fact that one of the girls denied any such incident, five of the nine boys convicted of rape.*

## Characters:

### **Scout Finch**

*The protagonist, narrator*

### **Atticus Finch**

*widower, Maycomb attorney, State Legislative*

### **Jem Finch**

*Scout's older brother*

### **Dill Harris**

*Friend of Scout & Jem*

### **Calpurnia**

*Finch's African-American Housekeeper*

### **Arthur Radley**

**Aunt Alexandra**

### **John Finch**

**John Taylor**

### **Tom Robinson**

**Bob. E. Lee Ewell**

### **Mayella Ewell**

**Miss Maudie**

### **Boo Radley**

**Horace Gilmer**

### **Brag Underwood**

**Miss Gates. (Others)**



# To Kill a Mockingbird

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in a fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama during 1930s.
- Lee uses memorable characters to explore civil rights and racism.
- The Narrator recounts:
  - *Her father Atticus Finch' who hopelessly strives to prove the innocence of a black man unjustly accused of rape.*
  - *About Boo Radley who saves Scout and her brother Jem from being killed.*

## Major Themes:

*Civil rights*

*Prejudice*

*Defining Bravery*

*Feminine Vs. Masculine*

*Women's Role in the Southern US*

*Inconsistency of Humanity*

*Gender Role*

*Integrity*

## Symbolism of Mockingbird:

*The mockingbird is used to symbolize innocence in the novel. The symbolism is portrayed in the instances where the goodness and innocence of some characters were bruised and crushed.*



# To Kill A Mockingbird: A Critical Study

The following three aspects make us understanding this novel easily:

*The title To Kill a Mockingbird refers to the local belief, introduced early in the novel, and referred again later, that it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. Lee is subtly implying that the townspeople are responsible for killing Tom Robinson, and that doing so was not only unjust and immoral, but sinful.*

*The events of To Kill a Mockingbird take place while Scout Finch is a young child. The sophisticated vocabulary and sentence structure of the story indicate that Scout tells the story many years after the events described, when she has grown to adulthood.*

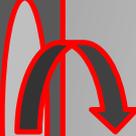
*To Kill a Mockingbird is usual because it is both an examination of racism and a bildungsroman. Within the framework of a coming-of-age story, Lee examines a very serious social problem. The novelist seamlessly blends these two very different kinds of stories.*

## To Kill A Mockingbird: Plot

*The story is told by the little six-year-old girl Jean Louise Finch nicknamed Scout. She is a rebellious girl who has tomboy tendencies. The storyline is based in Maycomb, a small town in Alabama in the 1930s where Scout lives with her elder brother Jem, and her father, Atticus, who is widowed. They have a housekeeper named Calpurnia, who is a stern kind-hearted African-American. They also befriend Dill, a small boy who comes to visit and stay with his aunt every summer.*

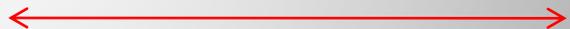
*The timeline is placed during the depression where the status of her father as a respected and successful lawyer alleviates the Finch family from the harshness of the depression gripping the small town.*

*The two major themes in the novel are judgment and justice. Scout and her brother get to learn some crucial lessons about judging others through the character of Boo, the cryptic and solitary neighbor. Early in the story, the children mimic and mock Radley, but they, later on, come to experience his goodness.*



*The judgment theme is depicted in the circumstances that befell Tom Robinson, a poor African-American field attendant who is accused and put on trial for rape. He was charged with trying to rape a white woman Mayella Ewell. Atticus is appointed by Judge Taylor as Robinson's defense against the disapproval of many of the town's citizens. Despite the apparent evidence that proves Tom's innocence, the jury convicts him. The racist nature of the white supremacy society places all odds against Tom.*

*After being humiliated in court, Bob Ewell sets out on a revenge mission against the Finch's as he spits into Atticus' face; he tries breaking into the Judge Taylor's house; he menaces Robinson's widow, and he later attacks Scout and her brother as they walk home at night. Boo comes to the rescue of the children where Jem is injured, a fight erupts, and Bob is killed.*



*“To Kill a Mockingbird” was introduced in the classroom as early as 1963. It has been featured in several other lists that describe its impacts, for instance, it was voted as the “Best Novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” by readers of the Library Journal. It is placed in the fifth position on the list of Modern Library's Readers List of the 100 Best Novels in the English language since 1900.*

