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“To Kill A Mockingbird”

By: Harper Lee

1960

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To Kill A Mockingbird Analysis

From when a character is born and until they die, they develop many characteristics. Character development is very important within any type of story or genre. Harper Lee is an amazing author who didn't even realize her skills in writing, until her books became known world-wide. One of her books, "*To Kill A Mockingbird*", has been sold and translated all over the world. The book focuses on racism and human behaviour. Through this novel, one of the main characters, Jean Louis Finch, grows by experiencing the ways of human nature which shapes her character, and her views towards the world.

Jean Louis, also known as Scout, begins the story as a six year old child who is clueless to humanity. She didn't think twice about what she said and did. For instance, when she was trying to tell Mrs. Caroline that Walter wouldn't accept the money, she said, "Miss Caroline, he's a Cunningham." (Lee, 26). This showed how Scout would say anything, and was confident in what she did. As she passed through her first year of school, she dealt with many things which she did not like. When she told Atticus, her father, that she was upset because of her new teacher, he taught her a valuable lesson. He told her to imagine herself being in someone else's shoes in a situation and how she would feel (Lee, 40). This taught Scout, a little bit about life and how even though it seems easy for the person, if she were to be in their shoes, she would realize it is much

harder than it seems. Scout develops her character as she starts to open her eyes to see different sides of people.

The whole event of the trial with Tom Robinson and Atticus helped Scout see not only the pretty things in life, but some of the cruel, heartless things people did. Scout had countless encounters of people bad mouthing her father, but she learned to stay strong, and not let those matters get to her. When she walked away while Cecil Jacobs was calling her coward, she said that was the first time she had ever walked away from a fight (Lee, 102). That shows how Scout has matured and learned to control herself. When Mrs. Dubose had died and Jem had found out, Atticus said to him, "...Mrs. Dubose won, all ninety-eight pounds of her. According to her views, she died beholden to nothing and nobody. She was the bravest person I ever knew." (Lee, 149). Scout had learned that day what bravery really was. As the story progresses, Scout starts to see even more of the true meanings of life.

At this point in the story, when Scout realized what exactly had happened while Atticus was guarding the jail cell, Scout was acknowledged by even her brother and wasn't told that "nearly nine year olds didn't do things like that" (Lee, 208). This just proves that Scout has become a stronger, reliable person. Scout becomes an important character in the novel as the author uses her to convey the lesson of the story. When Atticus said, "So it took an eight-year-old to bring 'em to their senses, didn't it?" (Lee, 210), it shows how children are more open-minded and innocent to the concept that everyone is equal. Scout is used again for the end of the novel, when in her sleep talk she said that Stoner Boy, from a book, was actually nice and didn't do anything bad (Lee, 376). She used that metaphorically to convey that, even though people seem bad on the outside, they are actually good people once you really get to see them. The

character of Scout and her role becomes bigger, and develops to be one of the key tools the author uses for this novel.

Scout developed as she was exposed to the evil ways of human nature and racism. She grew into not only an individual, but also as a type of hero. She went from being an innocent child, who knew nothing of the world, into a girl who understands that in reality human nature is cruel.