Citing *Novels for Students*

Introductory Material

Includes:

- author biography
- plot
- characters
- themes
- style
- historical context
- critical overview

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

Harper Lee  
1960

When *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960, it brought in young first-time author, Harper Lee, a stirring amount of attention and interest. The novel depicts three key years in the life of Scout Finch, the young daughter of an Alabama town's principal lawyer. The story is an instant sensation, becoming a best-seller and winning the Pulitzer Prize. The book's narrative revolves around scout and her older brother, Jem, learning about friendship, understanding, and defining a world through the example of their father. Atticus Finch has taken on the legal defense of a black man who has been falsely charged with raping a white woman. Lee's story of the events surrounding the trial has been admired for its portrayal of Southern life during the 1930s, not only for its precise examination of the causes and effects of racism, but because it created a model of tolerance and courage in the character of Atticus Finch. Some review critics found Scout's narrative unsatisfying, in style and language too sophisticated for a young girl. Since then, however, critics have found Lee's novel compelling, a testament to the enduring tale of an innocent girl as told by an experienced adult—one of the most technically proficient in modern fiction. A regional novel dealing with universal themes of kindness, courage, compassion, and justice, *To Kill a Mockingbird* continues popular appeal with literary excellence to earn its well-respected place in modern American literature.
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To Kill a Mockingbird
Harper Lee
1960

When To Kill a Mockingbird was published in 1960, it was a huge success, earning the Pulitzer Prize and becoming a best-seller. The story is set in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the 1930s. The novel is narrated by Scout Finch, the daughter of the town's lawyer, Atticus Finch. Scout is a curious and inquisitive child who learns about the complexities of race and class in her community.

In the story, Atticus Finch is hired to defend a black man named Tom Robinson, who is falsely accused of rape. The trial is a vivid portrayal of the racial tension and prejudice in the South during that time. The novel is known for its powerful exploration of themes like justice, empathy, and moral integrity.

The book has remained popular and influential, inspiring generations of readers and influencing many aspects of American culture. It remains a classic example of the Southern literature genre, and its themes continue to resonate with readers today.
The general article is unsigned; so leave the author element blank.
Since the title of the article is the title of a book we need to use the title tag OR italicize in Google Docs™ or MS Word®

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To Kill a Mockingbird

Novel, 1960
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Other Names Used: Lee, Nelle Harper;

To Kill a Mockingbird

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