Citing a Critical Essay Written for *Novels for Students*


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To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel set in the town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Great Depression. The novel is written by Harper Lee and published in 1960. It follows the lives of two children, Scout and Jem Finch, and their father, Atticus Finch, a lawyer and a symbol of justice.

The novel begins with Scout Finch's introduction to the world of law and justice through her father, Atticus. She learns about the importance of standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult. The novel also explores themes of racism and prejudice, as Scout and Jem witness the trial of an African American man, Tom Robinson, who is falsely accused of raping a white woman.

The trial serves as a catalyst for the novel, as Scout and Jem learn about the societal issues that exist in their community. They also learn about the importance of empathy and understanding, as they come to terms with the fact that not everyone sees the world the same way.

In addition to the trials, the novel also explores the personal lives of the characters. Scout struggles with the changes that come with growing up, while Jem faces the challenges of adolescence. Scout's relationship with her older brother, Jem, and his friend, Dill, is a key part of the story, as they all share their experiences and learn from each other.

The novel ends with Scout reflecting on the lessons she has learned, and how they have shaped her understanding of the world. She realizes that the trials and challenges of life are a necessary part of growing up, and that the key to happiness is to find a balance between being true to oneself and being open to the experiences that come one's way.

In summary, To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel that explores important themes of justice, empathy, and understanding. It is a timeless classic that continues to be relevant today, and is a must-read for anyone interested in literature or social justice.
Look at the end of the article for the author.


Claudia Durst Johnson

In the following excerpt, Johnson explores the role of stories, art, and other forms of communication in Lee’s novel.

The subject of To Kill a Mockingbird is also song, that is, expression: reading and literacy; both
Criticism

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Jean Louise, who becomes a compassionate yet not uncritical member of her community, both local and national. Finally, through the Finch family’s resolve and sympathy, Lee ethically communicates the need to cherish and protect those who, like mockingbirds, do no harm but are especially vulnerable to the violent injustices of our society.


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