Learning Ally))((
TOGETHER IT'S POSSIBLE
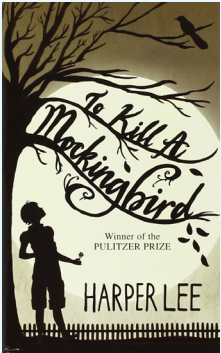
To Kill A Mockingbird

AUTHOR Harper Lee

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LA BOOKSHELF KM769

VOICETEXT Yes

LEXILE LEVEL 870L

GRADE EQUIVALENT 8.1

OVERVIEW

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, *To Kill A Mockingbird* takes readers to the roots of human behavior — to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

• Elements of Setting

• KWL Chart

• Vocabulary Graphic Organizer

• Comic Strip Graphic Organizer

• Characterization

• Character Map 2

• Cornell Notes – Learning Ally

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Harper Lee was born on April 28, 1926, in Monroeville, Alabama. Growing up her father, Amasa Coleman Lee, was a lawyer, newspaper editor, and state senator, serving as the basis for the character Atticus Finch. Lee's childhood in a small, rural southern town in pre-civil rights era America served as the capstone for her novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* which was received wide praise and an eventual Pulitzer Prize in 1961. While Harper Lee has long been touted a solo novelist, never writing anything after the widespread success of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, in late 2014, the manuscript for *Go Set a Watchman* was discovered. Long thought lost, the story was published and features many of the characters from *To Kill A Mockingbird* twenty years later.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

• Great Depression and the 1930s

• Racial segregation and Jim Crow laws

• Scottsboro trial, 1931

During the 1930s one landmark case highlighted the racism many African Americans faced — the Scottsboro trial of 1931. This trial was about nine young black men, who were falsely accused of raping two white women on board a train near Scottsboro, Alabama in 1931. Much of *To Kill a Mockingbird*'s plot was based upon this trial.

WRITING PROMPTS

• How does point-of-view in this story affect the plot?

• How might the story be different if it were told by a different character other than Scout?

• Identify how the time-period and setting (1930's, Alabama) affect the plot of this story. How might this story be different if it happened today?

• What major instances of racism, intolerance, or prejudice do you identify in this novel? How does that make you feel?

• In what ways do the characters of *To Kill A Mockingbird* represent bravery and the ability to stand up for injustice?

LITERARY DEVICES

Flashback

Symbolism

• Scout symbolizes innocence

• Mockingbird – "sin" to kill a mockingbird—characters as "mockingbirds"

• The "wild dog" Tim Johnson as racism

To Kill A Mockingbird

Setting
- Maycomb, Alabama
- 1930's
- Segregation

Point-of-View
- The story is told through the main character, Scout, a young child in the segregated South.

Themes
- Youth
- Justice and morality
- Fear
- Racism
- Civil Rights

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)
- *To Kill A Mockingbird* full-length movie, 1962
- *To Kill A Mockingbird* Spark Notes summary video
www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/video/mocking

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS
- Analyze explicit and implicit references in a text to make connections in overarching themes.
- Identify effects of setting and time period on plot.
- Draw evidence to support analysis, reflection and research
- Evaluate the effects of perception and reality, point-of-view and character on a story.

WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS
- Provide audiobook from Learning Ally
- Provide picture definitions for vocabulary
- Allow for student to use assistive technology
- Allow student to type assignments
- Allow extended time on assignments
- Allow for a scribe
- Grade based on content, not misspelling or handwriting
- Student read-aloud as optional
- Allow students to use audiobook version at home or in class
- Watch the movie or compare/contrast movie to the book