

WHO IS THE MOCKINGBIRD?



Overall, I have such a great time reading Harper Lee's work. Towards the end, there are still a lot of things bothering me.

However, in my opinion, the mockingbirds are Tom Robinson (obviously), Boo Radley and Atticus. But then, it saddens me to realize how hunters are able to choose on shooting several selected animals. At the end of the book, I noticed that Tom and Arthur shared similarities except skin colours. And with that little difference between them, it has costed a precious life, Tom's death. When Tate said that Arthur murdered Bob but decided to keep silent, I wonder whether Tate will do the same if Bob's murderer is a black man? I'm not trying to take rape cases lightly, but neither murder should be taken leniently. It is understandable that Boo killed Bob to save the kids, but what gives Boo the privilege to excuse himself from being convicted? I could accept if people disagree with me and insist that Boo deserves to be protected. However, we cannot run away from the fact that Boo Radley did kill a man, while Tom Robinson has done NOTHING. Unfortunately, he was still executed, though it was an accident. The whole place knew The Ewell's attitude, but what makes them scared to prosecute Boo? The Radley is not even considered to be a 'white-nigger'. So, why didn't they follow the law? For me, the reason is Boo Radley is a white man; he deserves chances. People might see that Boo's action is acceptable because in the beginning of the story, Arthur Radley is introduced as someone bad and unpleasant, however, those are just rumors. When we, the readers know that whatever descriptions of Boo are just rumors, we still have hopes that Boo Radley could be a decent person. And when he really saved the children, our hope is fulfilled, therefore, we neglect the fact that Boo is still a murderer.

Other than that, Scout's quiet thought is impressive and reflects us. She is an innocent child who has not developed 'multiple faces'. Well at least, not yet. When she questioned about hatred, which I found very irony, it hits me hard. Scout is definitely right; how could we despise cruelty which happens at other places, and think it is okay to perform injustice in our own place? It shows that we are irrelevant people who are very busybody of other people's business, but abandon our place. I personally think, this is a form of ethnocentrism. It happens all around the world, including Malaysia. We are very aware of differences among us, however refuse to celebrate it. The necessity to feel superior will force us to see other people's cultures or beliefs as something less valuable than ours. This attitude will create prejudice and soon turns into a pure hatred. When hatred is expressed openly, war will make its way.