

## Study Notes for *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

This book presents a tender yet challenging look at life in a small Southern town in the 1930's. The main theme of the book is white Southern prejudice against blacks, and the courage of the few who take a stand against it, but it also features prejudice of many types. These include religious bigotry, anti-Semitism, fear of anything new and different, and the typical narrow-minded prejudices of many small town folk. Against the background of these themes, the noble-minded and courageous character of Atticus Finch emerges through the eyes of his daughter, Scout. The title, *To Kill A Mockingbird* is a symbolic theme of the sin of violence against innocence and beauty.

### Chapter 1-3

1. Before reading define the following vocabulary:

assuaged	flivver	fractionous
hookworms	amble	nebulous
predilection	repertoire	vapid
transition	cunning	illicitly
vexations	mortifications	disapprobation

2. Ponder Atticus's statement to Scout, *"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."* What scriptures can you find which reveal this same principle?

### Chapters 4-6

1. Define the following vocabulary:

scuppernongs	auspicious
ethical	
quibbling	

2. Do you find Scout's evaluation of the Alabama educational system amusing? Are her observations valid?

3. Evaluate Miss Maudie's view of hypocritical Christians. Do you agree with her perspective?

