Drama: 1962, Not rated, B&W, 2:09 **Atticus Finch Gregory Peck** Scout **Mary Badham** Jem **Philip Alford** Dill John Megna Tom Robinson **Brock Peters Boo Radley Robert Duvall Director:** Robert Mulligan Screenplay by **Horton Foote** Based on the novel **Harper Lee** 



# To Kill a Mockingbird



Academy Award Best Actor Gregory Peck plays a widowed small-town Alabama lawyer in 1932 trying to raise two children while defending a black man against charges of raping a white woman. Narrated by the younger child, Scout, a feisty six-year-old tomboy, it is a story of honor and integrity, racism and stereotyping, and the lessons we all learn when confronted with crises. Two storylines play out simultaneously; that of the trial and the children's small-town

life, especially their relationship with a reclusive neighbor, Boo Radley, The interwoven stories come together dramatically and skillfully in the exciting climax. The interest arises both from the social context and from the use of the lawyer's kids who are growing up and who must understand the world of their seniors and matters of justice and injustice. The film uses very carefully laid-out Americana with sensitive, well-observed touches and with elements of southern gothic.

## **PREVIEWING PROMPT:**

The following questionnaire relates to the themes and issues of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Give your first reacton to each of the statements by circling one the numbers: 1=strongly agree, 2=agree somewhat, 3=disgree somewhat, 4=disagree strongly. Jot down comments about any statement you are unsure of or question.

1	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1.All men are created equal.	1	2	3	4
2.Girls should act like girls.	1	2	3	4
3.It's okay to be different.	1	2	3	4
4. Nobody is all bad or all good.	1	2	3	4
5.Some words are so offensive that they should never be stated or written.	1	2	3	4
6.Under our justice system, all citizens are treated fairly in our courts of law.	1	2	3	4
7. "Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you."	1	2	3	4
8. Speaking standard grammar proves that a person is smart.	1	2	3	4
9.A hero is born, not made.	1	2	3	4
10.No one is above the law.	1	2	3	4
11.Education is the great equalizer.	1	2	3	4
12. When the law does not succeed in punishing criminals, citizens should do so.	1	2	3	4

Comments:

# TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

1. Describe the opening title scene. What technique does the film use to present these objects to us? What mood is created here?
2. There is an example of foreshadowing in the opening scene. In detail explain what is being foreshadowed and how effective this is as a cinematic technique.
3. Describe Maycomb as you see it at the beginning of the film. How does the filmmaker use an establishing shot to create a mood of the town? How effectively is this done?

What is the relationship between the father and daughter? How does this scene capture and define that relationship and set the scene for the entire film?	
5. What is your first impression of Scout? What words wo	ould you use to describe her?
5.4. What is your first impression of Attique? What words	would you use to describe him?
5A. What is your first impression of Atticus? What words	would you use to describe him?
5B. Describe Jem. How is he different from Scout?	
JB. Describe Jein. How is the different from Scout?	

6. Many of the characters are depicted as holding stereotypes about how people will behave as a result of their age, gender, race, social status and other categories. Which characters are victims of this stereotyping? Do any of them break through the behavior expected of them, showing individuality and exposing the falseness of narrowly labelling people?
7. Atticus tries to provide moral lessons to help his children cope with their world. Explain the lesson he is trying to teach with each of the following lines:  a. "You never know someone until you step inside their skin and walk around a little"
b. " It's a sin to kill a mockingbird."
c. (Write your own quote from the book or film that you remember—paraphrase if necessary)

41 . 0	of a six-year old. What techniques did the film use to do this? Was it distracting	18
to you the viewer?		
the eyes of others.	peaks of "double consciousness"the sense of having to look at oneself through Which characters are basically forced to look at themselves through the lens of ed to behave as other people want them to behave?	1

What aspects of the film seem to be particular to that place and time? What aspects are universal, cutting across time and place? In what ways are the people you know today similar to and different from those in Maycomb?
11. What are the main conflicts in the story? Do they have clear starting points and resolutions? Were any conflicts left unresolved? Were any conflicts resolved in ways that you found disturbing?

					6	
Certain objects take of the setting or narr the following symboli a. a mockin	ative, yet that ob ze?	e in the film; to	hat is, an o	bject is uts sometl	used by the	e author as a de itself. W
rt of the setting or narr the following symboli	ative, yet that obzee?  gbird	e in the film; t	hat is, an o	bject is u	used by the	e author as a de itself. W
t of the setting or narr the following symboli a. a mockin	ative, yet that obyze?  gbird  dog	e in the film; to	hat is, an o	bject is u	used by the	e author as a

f. the cemented hole in tree
g. Atticus' pocket watch
h. columns on buildings
13. <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> has the <b>gothic</b> theme present, including elements such as the supernatural ghosts, sinister murders, sexual violence, haunted houses, prisons and dungeons, encounter with people unlike ourselves, and the baleful influence of the past. Behind the gothic is the idea of imprisonment within and the breaking through boundaries. When characters attempt to break out of boundaries, violence inevitably breaks out. Match the following elements with events in the movie:

	Events in the film
a. foreboding of evil	
a. Torcooming or evir	
b. ghosts and ghost houses	
-	
c. forbidden secrets	
c. Torbidden secrets	
d. insanity	
.1 1 C.	
e. the lure of terror	
f. imprisonment, including	
barriers, walls and veils	
,	
g. taboos including racemixing	
h. violence, especially having	
to do with attempting to	
break boundaries	
break boundaries	

14. This film is based on the novel by Harper Lee. Some people think that an adaptation should be faithful to the book in letter or in spirit. Others think that a film should be faithful only to the art of film, refashioning the story in its own terms. What obligations do you think the filmmaker has to the original source?
15. If you've read the novel, compare the book to the movie. How did viewing the book compare to reading the novel? What was left out or changed in the film? Why do you think this was done?

	wing excerpt from the novel. What mood is conveyed. How accurately does the me mood? What changes, if any, are evident?
sout. The shut arou oak guar	Radley place jutted into a sharp curve beyond our house. Walking th, one faced its porch; the sidewalk turned and ran beside the lot. house was low, was once white with a deep front porch and green ters, but had long ago darkened to the color of the slate-gray yard and it. Rain-rotted shingles drooped over the eaves of the veranda; trees kept the sun away. The remains of a picket fence drunkenly raded the front yarda "swept" yard that was never sweptwhere ason grass and rabbit-tobacco grew in abundance.
	that happen that give you an idea about the character of Boo Radley. From this lescribing Boo. Was he treated fairly by the people of Maycomb? Explain.

18. The night scene in which the children sneak up to the Radley house dramatizes their fascination with and their fear of the unknown. How do the filmmakers use lighting, music, sound effects, and camera work to heighten suspense? How suspenseful does the scene seem to viewers today?
10 WI 1 Au' 11 T D 1' 1' 10 WI 1 1' 1 11'
19. Why does Atticus take on Tom Robinson as a client? What does this say about him as a person
20. Describe Tom Robinson. How believable is he on the witness stand?
21. How does Atticus prove that Tom is innocent? Why was the verdict a "foregone conclusion?"

22. In the broadest sense, a novel reflects the viewpoints of the author. Discuss this statement: The depiction of AfricanAmericans of the 1930s in TKM, although sensitive to the rank injustices they experienced, is nevertheless a view put forth by a Caucasian who could "get inside of their skin" only vicariously, through empathy.				

My idea of a hero is
America's idea of a model family may be described as
A defendant in a jury trial has the best chance of being found inno-
cent if
One adventage of living before 1050 was
One advantage of living before 1950 was
One disadvantage of living before 1950 was
One disadvantage of fiving before 1750 was
A Southern lady would never Opinionnaire
71 Southern lady would never Opinionnaire

23. Complete each of the listed statements. You may write a single sentence or do a free-writing

elaboration.

24. The night scene in which the children sneak up to the Radley house dramatizes their fascination with and their fear of the unknown. How do the filmmakers use lighting, music, sound effects, and camera work to heighten suspense? How suspenseful does the scene seem to viewers today? Discuss each of these elements: lighting, music, sound effects and camera used to increase suspense.				

necklace, whistle, marbles, and a child's drawing of a bird - items that gain meaning as the story unfolds. The sequence is a good introduction for the story's symbolism and themes. It also shows (to quote Harper Lee again) how a film can have "a life of its own as a work of art." Notice how the camera moves in, like a child's vision, to closeups of these valued objects, tracking from left to right along the row of treasures carefully arranged. Notice how the nostalgic music and humming of a child create a mood. What happens to the drawing at the end of the sequence? What does this mean what impact did the director's use of the camera in this scene have upon you as you anticipated the film that was to follow? Give your evaluation of the opening sequence to this film.				



### **CREATIVE WRITING**

Read the following description of Maycomb. Then write your own paragraph describing where you grew up.

Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather, the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square. Somehow it was hotter then. Men's stiff collars wilted by nine o'clock in the morn ing. Ladies bathed before noon after their three o'clock naps. And by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frosting from sweating and sweet talcum. The day was twenty-four hours long, but it seemed longer. There's no hurry for there's nowhere to go and nothing to buy...and no money to buy it with...Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself...That summer I was six years old.

# **GROUP WORK:**

Debate the issue: The Sheriff should tell the townspeople who killed Bob Ewell.				