

## TKAM - PART 1

1. Introduction of all major characters except for Tom Robinson. Atticus, Scout, Jem, Calpurnia, Dill, Miss Maudie, Aunt Alexandra, Uncle Jack, the Ewells etc.
2. Some idea of life in Maycomb - hot, laid back, segregated (blacks have their own area near the ne'er do well white folk like the Ewells), everybody knows everybody else's business.
3. Nature of the Finches. Atticus a clever non-racist lawyer. Jem and Scout clever, imaginative children. Mother dead so looked after by Calpurnia, a black housekeeper/cook but more like one of the family. Atticus trusts her completely in the upbringing of his children.
4. Relationships between people established. Aunt Alexandra disapproves of the way Atticus brings up children but he won't let her interfere. Miss Maudie a much-liked friend of the Finches. The Ewells despised.
5. Mystery of Boo Radley. Presents in tree, mended pants, blanket round Scout on night of the fire. The way rumour can spread - he eats squirrels. Small town mentality.
6. Introduction of racist theme. Name-calling of Atticus because he will defend Tom Robinson. To be expanded in Part 2.
7. Character of Atticus explored in detail. Stands up for what is right and expects his children to do the same. A good father - teaches them. Modest - never admits he is a good shot. Admires bravery - Mrs. Dubose. Will not let children torment Boo.
8. Introduction of major themes - racism, courage, growing up all of which will be continued in Part 2.

Part 1 is in some ways a lengthy setting of the scene for what is to come.

## TKAM - PART 2

- 1 Blacks established as good, religious, hardworking folk for the most part. Contrast to lynch mob.
- 2 Main focus on courtroom scene. Atticus proves Tom's innocence. Everyone knows he is innocent yet he's found guilty because he's black. Continuation of racist theme.
- 3 Ewells portrayed as liars - many whites much worse than blacks. Ewell cocky because he knows nobody will acquit Tom - white man's word always believed.
- 4 Atticus maintains his dignity even when spat upon by Ewell. Blacks respect him.
- 5 Jem upset by verdict and full of hatred for jury. Atticus explains that change is not something that will come overnight. Still educating his children.
- 6 Tom tries to escape despite the promised appeal because he has no reason to believe justice will ever be done by whites.
- 7 Some of the Maycomb people besides Atticus' family are disgusted with the verdict - suggests change might be on its way. Link Deas, for example, and Underwood.
- 8 Others - Mrs Merriweather's band - shown as hypocritical. Will work for blacks living in foreign jungles but despise those at home.

9 Justice done at end with Ewell's death. Jem and Scout saved by Boo. Both children show courage like their father. Atticus prepared to let Jem be tried for killing Ewell until Heck Tate insists Ewell fell on his own knife. Atticus not one to avoid responsibility, however painful.

Part 2 is a study of small town life in the racist southern states of the USA, using the characters met in Part 1. The whole is seen through the eyes of a little girl, remembering her childhood. The novel was first published in 1960 by Harper Lee who lived in Alabama at the time the novel is set.