

# To Kill a Mockingbird Creative Response



## Requirements

- This work should reflect CARE AND EFFORT. The draft you submit should reflect editing and attention to detail.
- Written options should be typed –or- neatly written in INK.
- Written assignments should be AT LEAST ONE and NO MORE THAN THREE PAGES in length. If they are typed, papers should be double-spaced.
- You may complete a second assignment for extra credit.
- Due Date: TBA



## Options

1. Re-read Scout's description of Maycomb on pages 9 and 10 of the novel, from "Maycomb was a tired old town" through "That was the summer that Dill came to us." Then, think of a place where you once lived or spent considerable time – possibly a place you vacation, a relative's home, or a former school - maybe your town or a particular place in your town. Look back at that place the way that Scout, now an adult, looks back on Maycomb. Using vivid, descriptive language, describe this place in detail for your reader. Include, as Scout does, a description of some important people there, the main activities, boundaries, restrictions, fears or delights, or other applicable details. Make this place come alive for your reader.
2. Scout tells the reader a great deal about her family and neighbors. In Chapter 9 she describes Christmas at Finch's Landing. Think of a time when your family got together for a special occasion. Then, as Scout does, describe that event, the people there, your feelings about them. Have fun with this. I could certainly tell some funny tales about MY family's gatherings. Some would be amusing, some sad, some embarrassing, some dull. Use your best judgment to give me a glimpse into your family's gathering.

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3. Re-read Scout's description of Mrs. DuBose in Chapter 11. Chose someone you know, and write a similar, detailed description of that person, especially that person's facial characteristics. You might also include a description of the setting in which someone would encounter the person. You should create a VIVID portrait of the person with your words. **It should be a real person that you know, not a celebrity or fictional creation. You will write best about someone you know and have the opportunity to look at frequently.**
4. In Chapter 20, the jury hears Atticus' summation speech – his final, powerful remarks which are a plea to find Tom Robinson NOT GUILTY. Re-read that speech. Because Scout is not in the courtroom to hear Mr. Gilmer's final argument, readers do not learn the content of his closing statement. **Pretend that YOU are Mr. Gilmer**, the prosecuting attorney. Write the summation speech that you would give to convince the jury to find Tom Robinson guilty. I know that what you write is not an indication of your personal feelings. Write the speech as if you were Mr. Gilmer in Maycomb, Alabama in 1935. Stay "true" to the character of Mr. Gilmer, and try to make his words as powerfully convincing as those of Atticus.
5. In Chapter 25, Mr. Underwood writes a bitter editorial condemning the the result of the Tom Robinson trial. Research examples of editorial opinion pieces and write the editorial that Mr. Underwood would have written, making sure to reference what Scout says his editorial mentioned and to use the language of the editorial form.
6. Imagine that Tom Robinson wrote a letter to his wife, Helen, or his lawyer, Atticus, before his attempted escape from prison. Write that letter, trying to capture his feelings about the case and his reason for trying to make a break for it. Re-read his testimony in in the courtroom to get a sense of his voice and style of speaking, but be very careful about not slipping into stereotype.
7. One of the lessons that Atticus tries to teach Scout is the importance of stepping into another person's shoes, and seeing the world from his/her point of view. Applying that lesson, find one critical passage of adequate length in the novel and rewrite it from another character's point of view. Think about how someone other than Scout describing the events might change how it was seen, and make sure that your language and thinking accurately depict the character you've chosen.