

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (1960)

Scout was 6 & her brother Jem was 10 living in Maycomb County, Alabama during the depression. Their mom died when she was two. Her dad, Atticus Finch, was a lawyer. And Calpurnia was their black cook. Dill would visit his aunt for the summer & they would play together. Dill was always telling stories. Boo [Arthur] Radley lived down the street. Nobody ever saw him & kids imaginations went wild with tales.

Scout learned to read early. She was trying to explain things to the new teacher but only seemed to get in trouble over it. She was a tomboy & not afraid to get into a fight. She was compassionate with others. Dill would dare Jem to go into the Radley yard or look into the window. They would find things like chewing gum, twine, pennies, a broken watch & a medal in a hole in a tree in front of the Radley house. Then someone filled the hole in the tree.

Boo's dad died & his brother moved back home to take care of him. One day it snowed [1st time in 50 yrs] so they made a snowman [snow covered mud]. That night Miss Maudie's house burned down. They were standing out in the cold while the men moved out furniture & someone put a blanket over Scout's shoulders. Atticus was a great shot & had to kill a rabid dog.

Atticus' brother, Jack, was a doctor. And his sister, Alexandra, didn't mind telling what she thought. Atticus was assigned a case to defend an innocent black man & everyone called him a nigger lover. Mrs. Dubose was a cranky old lady that made Jem mad, so he cut off the tops of her camellia bush. Atticus made him read to her for a month. She died soon after. She was cranky because she gave up her pain meds.

Atticus was away on business so Calpurnia watched them & took them to her black church. Then aunt Alexandra moved in to try to get Scout to act like a lady. She wanted to get rid of the cook; Atticus said no. Atticus thought there might be trouble at the jail the night before the trial so he sat outside the door. His kids came just after a mob started making threats.

Scout recognized one of the men & started talking about his son. They mob went home. There was standing room only in the courtroom. His kids snuck upstairs to the colored balcony. 11.21.34 was the day a white trash family (Bob Ewell) accused an innocent black man of rape. It became obvious in court the Tom Robinson was innocent, but the jury condemned him to death.

Bob Ewell spit in Atticus' face & threatened his life. Atticus would rather Bob take it out on him than his children [Bob was an abusive drunk]. Tom was only nice to folks [like the Mockingbird] & he got killed. The kids were walking home from school in the dark & Bob Ewell tried to kill them but fell on his knife & died. Jem was unconscious & Boo carried him home. That night Scout got to see him [& was nice to him] before he went back into hiding.

Note: The ground is cooler under a tree.

Quotes:

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." "It's not time to worry yet." "...it's a sin to kill a mockingbird [they sing without any harm]." "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." "[Real courage] it's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway & you see it through no matter what." "Talk to people about what they were interested in." "Never ask a witness a question you don't already know the answer to." (Atticus) "Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passing" (Calpurnia)

Definitions:

- 3- assuaged = lessened
- 3- apothecary = pharmacy
- 4- dictum = statement
- 4- chattel = slave
- 4- taciturn = silent
- 4- unsullied = untarnished
- 8- malevolent = mean
- 9- predilection = liking
- 10- flivver = old car
- 11- nebulous = unclear
- 15- condescended = looked down on
- 20- entailment = necessary consequence
- 23- dispensation = release
- 25- flinty = unemotional
- 27- diminutive = tiny
- 29- fractious = irritable
- 29- amiable = agreeable
- 32- auspicious = positive
- 42- benign = kind
- 42- tacit = implied
- 46- placidly = calmly
- 63- aberrations = irregularities
- 73- Bellingrats = plant?
- 71- quelled = crushed
- 76- inordinately = extremely
- 80- trousseau = hope chest
- 84- crooned = sang
- 85- obstreperous = rowdy
- 102- philippic = insult
- 102- umbrage = offense
- 102- interdict = order
- 105- calomel = laxative
- 105- druthers = choice
- 117- castile = soap
- 117- habiliments = clothes
- 118- asafetida = gum resin
- 120- rotogravure = printing process
- 120- impedimenta = baggage

123- voile = fabric
128- formidable = tough
129- amanuensis = writer
130- obliquely = indirectly
131- vetted = examined
139- negligee = gown
150- venerable = respected
152- acquiescence = consent
159- akimbo = hand on hip with elbow out
160- elucidate = clarify
162- cellophane = plastic wrap
163- unobtrusive = bland
165- champertous connivance = conspire?
166- solicitor = lawyer
169- gullet = throat
170- indigenous = native
171- acrimonious = bitter
173- rutting = sex
195- cathedra = chair
198- impudent = bold
204- unmitigated = absolute
204- temerity = nerve
204- caliber = quality
213- scuppernongs =
214- feral = wild
215- ruefully = regretful
227- charlotte = dessert
230- impertinence = disrespect
249- chunked = break apart
253- apprehension = worry

Hunt's painting "Light of the world"