

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

The novel is about three years in the life of the Finch family: Atticus and his son Jem and daughter Scout. Atticus is a lawyer and the central incident of the novel is when he defends a black man, Tom Robinson, against the charge of raping a white girl.

The story is told in the *first person* by Scout Finch, a young girl - so we see things from her point of view, and sometimes we need to reinterpret what she tells us.

Main Characters:

Scout Finch – Scout is 6 years old when the novel begins and 9 when it ends. She is the narrator of the novel and has a close relationship with her father, Atticus, and her brother, Jem. She is very intelligent and is a tomboy. She is fascinated by the mystery of Boo Radley.

Atticus Finch – Is the father of Scout and Jem Finch. Their mother died when Scout was 2. Atticus is a well respected lawyer who takes on Tom Robinson's case, despite it looking very likely that he will lose. He is kind, honest and caring.

Jem Finch – Scout's older brother; he is nearly 10 at the start of the novel and 13 when it finishes. He has a close relationship with his sister and loves and admires his father, Atticus.

Dill – real name is Charles Baker Harris. He spends the summer in Maycomb living with his Aunt Rachel. He becomes good friends with Jem and Scout. He loves to play adventure games and has a very creative imagination.

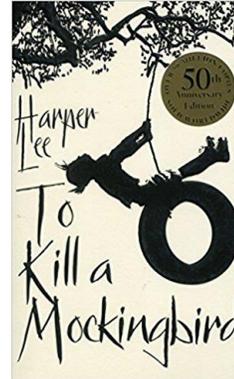
Calpurnia – the Finches' black cook. She has worked for the family since Jem was a baby and Atticus sees her as one of the family. Atticus depends on her to help bring up Scout and Jem.

Tom Robinson – A black man who is accused of raping the white woman Mayella Ewell. Atticus defends him at his trial.

Boo Radley – a mysterious character who is a social recluse. Scout, Jem and Dill become fascinated with finding out who he is.

The Ewell Family – The Ewell family are described as "the disgrace of Maycomb county". The father, Bob Ewell, is an uneducated racist. His daughter, Mayella, accuses Tom Robinson of rape.

Themes
Prejudice
Racism
Understanding
Loneliness
Courage
Innocence



Literature

Paper 1 Section A

40 marks

Part a: analyse use of language, form and structure in the extract (AO2).

Part b: explore a theme or character in the rest of the play and link to context (AO1&AO3).

Vocabulary

Subject terminology:

Simile
Metaphor
Symbolism
Adjective
Verb
Noun
Emotive language
Repetition
first person
narrator
Foreshadows
Cyclical structure
Colloquial language

Key terms:

Protagonist
Antagonist
Effect
Suspense
Tension
Reader
Theme
Novel

	Success criteria
Part A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant quotations selected from the extract. Keyword analysis. Layers of meaning. Link to the effect on the reader. Relevant subject terminology. Analysis of language (the words the writer has used). Analysis of structure (the way the extract is laid out) Analysis of form (the type of text it is).
Part B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant quotations from the rest of the text. Keyword analysis. Layers of meaning. Link to the effect on the reader. Link to relevant context – what was life like when the novel was written? How might a modern day reader respond compared to a reader of the time?

Context (AO3)

Harper Lee – born in Monroeville, Alabama in 1926. The novel takes place in the 1930s in a town similar to the one in which she grew up. The book was written in the 1950s and published in 1960 – just before the civil rights movement really took.

American Slavery – black people were brought from Africa to America in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. They had no rights and were treated as possessions. Although abolished in 1865, they still were not treated as equals.

During the Great Depression blacks were blamed by whites for a lot of America's economic problems. It was common for blacks to be lynched or hanged by a mob well into the 20th century.

The Great Depression – The novel is set in 1930's America, during the Great Depression which started in 1929 after the Wall Street Crash. During this time America saw significant levels of poverty and unemployment.

"Jim Crow Laws" – Racial segregation (the separation of black people and white people) in public was enforced in many U.S states. This meant that black and white people could not mix together in places including schools, hospitals and parks. There were race riots throughout the 1920s.

The Scottsboro Case – In 1931, when Harper Lee was 5, nine young black men were accused of raping two white women on a train. After a series of trials, four of the men were sentenced to lengthy terms in prison. It was later discovered that the women were lying.