

## **To Kill a Mockingbird**

### **Exploring Characters and Lee's Exposition**

In this activity, we will look at what life was like in the south at the time To Kill a Mockingbird takes place. You will be divided into four groups and given a topic to research in class. Then, you will create some sort of document/presentation to teach the class about your topic. As a group, you will then present your findings in a 5 minute presentation.

#### **The Groups:**

**The Men:** Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, Tom Robinson

*Research:* You should research the Scottsboro Trial and be able to provide an overview of the trial and challenges of seeking justice in a heightened racial atmosphere.

**The Children:** Scout, Jem, and Dill

*Research:* You should focus on and understand the expectations of children with the setting of the south during the 1930s.

**The Women:** Calpurnia, Aunt Alexandra, Miss. Stephanie, Mrs. Dubose

*Research:* You should examine the lives of White and African American Women: Based on your reading and research, you should be able to provide an overview about a day in the life of an African American woman and a White woman.

**The Setting:** Understand the Post Civil War, Jim Crow South, and the impact of the Great Depression

*Research:* You should examine the Emmet Till case and Jim Crow laws in order to understand the pervasive and ignorant nature of racism during the time period.

#### **In each group, you will:**

- Use essential quotes and text-based descriptions of the characters/setting. These MUST be cited in MLA format.
- Research historical information relevant to understanding the character and setting.
- Create a document/presentation that creatively presents the information you have put together based on research of your topic. This should be dropped into Mrs. McCarthy's dropbox by midnight on the due date to receive full credit.
- Provide a brief 5 minute presentation of your group's topic and information. This should be planned and rehearsed. Each person must have an *active* role in the presentation.

**You will have two days in class to work on this. The presentations will take place on \_\_\_\_\_.**

### Resources:

These are resources that have been checked for reliability. They are intended to be used as a starting point. You will also need to research other aspects of your topic online, in book/newspapers/magazines, or from other sources - think your history teacher! Make sure you give a well-rounded and accurate presentation.

#### Scottsboro Trials:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/index.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/scottsboro/scottsbo.htm>

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm>

#### Growing up in the 1930s

<http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/girl.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/mculley.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002606/1930s.html>

#### Women in the 1930s

#### Jim Crow Laws

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/>

<http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering/>

#### Emmet Till

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/>