

Character Development in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines character development in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, focusing on the moral and psychological growth of the central characters within the racially segregated society of Maycomb, Alabama. The study aims to analyse how individual transformation reflects broader themes of justice, prejudice, and ethical responsibility. Using a thematic and character-centered approach, this paper explores the development of Scout Finch, Jem Finch, and Atticus Finch. Scout's journey from childhood innocence to mature understanding highlights the gradual acquisition of empathy and social awareness. Jem's character undergoes a significant transformation as he confronts the harsh realities of racial injustice during Tom Robinson's trial, marking his transition from innocence to disillusionment. Atticus Finch, as a moral guide, embodies integrity and courage, influencing the ethical formation of his children. In addition, the paper considers the transformation of Boo Radley from a figure of fear and misunderstanding into a symbol of compassion and humanity. Through these character arcs, the novel presents a powerful critique of racial discrimination and social inequality in the American South. The analysis ultimately argues that true

character is revealed through empathy, moral courage, and the willingness to challenge injustice. Thus, the novel remains a significant exploration of human values and moral development.

Keywords: Character development, Transformation, Exploration, Transition, Compassion, Humility.
