

Tom Robinson's Trial

(Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mocking Bird* Chapters 18-20)

Part I: In your group, discuss the question whether the person / group assigned to you believes that Tom Robinson is guilty or not. Also talk about whether they believe that he will be convicted or not. Support your arguments with passages from the book.

Part II: You will be put into new groups. Tell each other your findings plead for the character / group that was given to you at the beginning

People	Is Tom Robinson guilty?	Do they believe that Tom Robinson will be convicted?
Atticus		
Jem		
Scout		

General Ideas for teaching Harper Lee's To Kill a Mocking Bird

1. Reading

We suggest that the book be used as a class reading. The book can be discussed over a timespan of 10 weeks, using one lesson per week to focus on the book. The students will have a reading assignment of about 40 pages per week (see separate plan), not including the first and the last week. To make sure the students read the chapters for each week, and also to help them to see the recapitulate the book so far, there will usually be while-reading tasks (see separate plan). Depending on the subject, those while-reading tasks can be used in the following session.

2. Background information

Since the issue of race is a recurring theme in the book it would be advisable to give the students some background information on the history of slavery in the USA and the civil war.

3. Assessment

A good way to assess what the students have learned would be an oral exam. This could be designed similarly than the final exam the students have to take at the end of their secondary education. Hence, the oral exam would serve as a test for the final oral examination.

4. Helpful sources

- *Sparknotes*: On the website of you can find a good film which summarized the book and comments on lessons Scout learns throughout the book
<http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/video/mocking>
- *Film*: Robert Mulligan made a film adaptation of the book in 1962, which is still listed as one of the greatest American movies. The title is the same as the book's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*
- *Websites*: <http://www.sanjuan.edu/webpages/rhaak/welcome.cfm?subpage=125932>
this website has some interesting files and worksheets on the book