



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** **Socratic Seminar Entry Ticket**

**Objectives:** You will be able to...

- Respond to open-ended questions.
- Provide evidence for your opinions.
- Prepare for a thought provoking discussion.
- Edit your work.
- Work independently (no sharing!)

**Directions:**

1. Write on **another paper** in complete sentences, and be as thorough as possible.
2. All responses must refer to the text with direct text evidence.
3. Answer a total of **five** questions.

1. Identify two major themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. How are they revealed throughout the course of the novel? Think of the life lessons Harper Lee intended to communicate towards her readers as themes.
2. How has Scout grown and matured throughout the course of the novel? Explain using specific examples. Reflect back upon your middle school career and the change in maturity between a sixth to eighth-grader. What are the expectations of you now as a ninth-grader and how do you think you'll change in maturity by the twelfth grade?
3. People within the novel are often hypocritical, or their actions contradict what they say. Where do you see hypocrisy within our world today?
4. What character surprised you the most during the course of the novel? Explain how and why. Have you ever had a first impression of someone that you later reconsidered after getting to know them?
5. Scout is an active and curious child. She wants to do things that boys do. During the depression era girls were expected to be "ladylike." Does Scout do anything that seems wrong or not acceptable for a girl? Do you think girls should act in a certain way? What things can boys do that girls shouldn't do? Up to what age should a girl be allowed to act however she wishes?
6. Atticus allows a good deal of freedom to his children. Jack, Atticus' brother, thinks he gives them too much freedom. In what ways does Atticus give freedom? What kind of father would you rather have, Atticus or Jack? Why? What kind of parent do you think you would be? What do the kids learn by being on their own, free from adult supervision?
7. How does your "cultural baggage" impact the way in which you view *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the life lessons Harper Lee includes?
8. Boo Radley suffers from rumors and is considered weird, scary or even dangerous. Why do people like to believe rumors, especially rumors that are wild or outrageous? Who doesn't believe the rumors about Boo? Why don't they believe the rumors? How do you deal with rumors about you or friends?
9. Telling the truth is often difficult. Even though Mayella found Tom Robinson attractive when he was helping her with the furniture, she lies about Tom on the stand. She says that he beat her and raped her. Why does she lie? What are the biggest reasons she does not tell the truth? What is the most common reason for people to lie?
10. When a person reads a piece of literature that has been deemed a "classic" by his/her society, he/she becomes the owner of a bit of cultural literacy. What do you now know about America and its struggles with racism and poverty during the Great Depression? How has your understanding of a part of our country become more well-rounded? How will the knowledge you've gained from *To Kill a Mockingbird* shape the way you view the world around you? To what extent does the novel still teach us valuable lessons about race or racism?
11. Librarians across America voted *To Kill A Mockingbird* the best novel of the twentieth century, yet the book is continuously challenged and often banned by schools and communities. What makes the novel so important and so divisive? Think back to your original ideas about censorship. Now that you've read the novel, do you think students should be made to read it? Do you think reading it is worth it?
12. If Atticus would run for president, would you vote for him? What character qualities does he have that would/would not appeal to people?