

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

Look up biographical information about Harper Lee in *Poetics*.

Watch *Hey Boo, Harper Lee & To Kill a Mockingbird* DVD - I will start passing this DVD through your families. When you receive it, please watch it as soon as possible, then pass it to someone else. Hopefully, all of you can see this great documentary before the end of the year.

It is important to pay attention to when a book is set - when is the story taking place? It is also important to pay attention to when a book is written - what is the culture, worldview, and motives of the author.

-*To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in 1930s Alabama.

-*To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960 (written in the 1950s) as the Civil Rights Movement is getting rolling

Do some research on the following historical topics (you can spread these out over the course of reading the book):

-Depression era South - what was life like during the Depression in the South

-Racial Issues - specific to 1930s Alabama

-Jim Crow Laws

-The Scottsboro Boys

-Emmett Till

-Mockingbird - the bird - how is it unique

-Influence and popularity of *To Kill a Mockingbird* the book

-Civil Rights events and key players in late 1950s/early 1960s

***Read Chapters 1-6**

**Focus: Language*

The language of *TKM* is so rich. Harper Lee uses vocabulary, allusion, idiom, point of view, and voice that drips with The South.

Allusions List - Keep a running list of allusions on a piece of notebook paper. Look up any that are unfamiliar. Be prepared to name a few in class.

**Literary Focus: Setting*

Harper Lee masterfully crafts the imaginary town of Maycomb, Alabama. As you read, mark significant portions that describe the setting. **Be prepared to read a favorite.**

**Literary Focus: Characterization*

The characters in TKM are full of life and personality. An author uses five main devices to flesh out their characters with words: physical description/personality, actions, words, thoughts and feelings, interactions with other characters.

Make a list of characters you encounter. Beside each name, write a short description of the character. (Ex. Atticus Finch - lawyer, father to Jem and Scout) (please continue this list into the next chapters)

***Read Chapters 7-11**

**Literary Focus: Language and Literary Analysis*

Make a list of eight significant quotes from chapters 1-11 using the following format. Please type.

Speaker:

Quote:

Significance: connect it to one of the literary terms (does this support setting, characterization, point of view, themes, symbols, conflict, etc.) Also tell why you find this quote interesting.

**Literary Focus: Characterization*

Finish the character list you began last week

Choose a character that most intrigues you. Write a one page, typed character sketch.

Make sure to include all the elements of characterization: physical description/personality, actions, words, thoughts and feelings, interactions with other characters.

Also include at least two quotes about this character in your writing. (can be another person talking about this character OR a direct quote from the character).