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Exploring the Purpose and Analysis of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Harper Lee's novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," is a timeless classic that explores themes of racism, morality, and social justice in the American South during the 1930s. This engaging work serves several purposes, from shedding light on the complexities of human nature to highlighting the importance of empathy and understanding.

Analysis of the Purpose

"To Kill a Mockingbird" was written by Harper Lee and published in 1960 during a period of significant social change in the United States. The novel is set in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, and is narrated by a young girl named Scout Finch. The primary purpose of the book is to address and challenge the deep-seated racism and injustice prevalent in American society, particularly in the South.

- **Social Commentary on Racism:** The novel provides a critical commentary on the racial prejudice and discrimination that African Americans faced during the Jim Crow era. Through the trial of Tom Robinson, a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman, the book highlights the inherent bias and injustice within the legal system.
- **Morality and Empathy:** Another purpose of the novel is to explore the themes of morality and empathy. Atticus Finch, Scout and Jem's father, serves as a moral compass in the story. His unwavering commitment to justice, even in the face of hostility, teaches valuable lessons about doing what is right and understanding the perspectives of others.
- **Loss of Innocence:** The novel also delves into the loss of innocence as Scout and Jem grow up and become aware of the harsh realities of the world around them. Their experiences with racism, prejudice, and injustice force them to confront the darker aspects of humanity.
- **Critique of Society:** "To Kill a Mockingbird" critiques the societal norms and expectations of Maycomb, exposing the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy of a community that clings to its racist beliefs. It challenges readers to question these norms and seek change.
- **The Mockingbird Symbol:** The title of the novel itself, "To Kill a Mockingbird," serves a symbolic purpose. Mockingbirds are innocent creatures that bring joy through their songs. Atticus teaches Scout and Jem that it's a sin to kill a mockingbird because they do no harm. This symbolizes the idea of harming the innocent, as well as the injustice faced by the novel's characters.

