

Name _____

Journey Through Maycomb: Exploring the Start, Middle, and End of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Scout Finch undergoes significant character development throughout the novel. In the beginning, she is curious and innocent, fascinated by Boo Radley. However, as she faces the challenges of school and witnesses the racial prejudice in Maycomb, she matures and gains a deeper understanding of the complexities of the world around her. Her encounter with Boo Radley at the end serves as a profound moment of growth and empathy.
2. Racial prejudice is a central theme in "To Kill a Mockingbird." It is depicted through Tom Robinson's trial, where he is wrongly accused and convicted because of his race. The racial divisions and prejudices within Maycomb's society are evident in the attitudes of many residents. The trial serves as a powerful example of the racial injustice prevailing in the town.
3. Boo Radley's character symbolizes innocence and goodness. He is misunderstood and feared by the townspeople due to rumors and stories. However, his actions, such as saving Scout and Jem, reveal his kind and protective nature. Boo Radley represents the idea that one should not judge others based on appearances but should seek to understand their true character.
4. Atticus Finch is a central character in the novel and serves as a moral compass. He is a principled and just individual who defends Tom Robinson despite the town's prejudice. Atticus's impact on the story's events is significant, as his defense of Tom Robinson drives the narrative's central conflict. His lessons on empathy and morality also shape his children's characters and the novel's overall message.

