

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Character Development: Scout



- ◎ “...but Scout’d just as soon jump on someone as look at him if her pride’s at stake...?”
 - This shows that Scout is willing to defend her pride and her family’s reputation as well.
 - This is an example of Direct Characterization
- ◎ “Negro lover... This time, I split my knuckle to the bone on his front teeth. My left impaired, I sailed in with my right”
 - This shows that Scout has a short temper and is a little hot-headed at times.
 - This is an example of Indirect Characterization

Character Development: Atticus



- ◎ “The main one is, if I didn’t I couldn’t hold up my head in town, I couldn’t represent this county in the legislature, I couldn’t even tell you or Jem not to do something again.”
 - This shows that Atticus feels that he has a duty to the county no matter how hopeless the situation.
 - This is an example of Indirect Characterization.
- ◎ “All she needs is assistance sometimes...Atticus, you’ve never laid a hand on her.”
 - This shows that Atticus is very capable of disciplining his children without forceful methods of punishment.
 - This is an example of Indirect Characterization.

Character Development: Jem



- ◎ “I didn’t know how you were going to do it, but from now on I’ll never worry about what’ll become of you, son, you’ll always have an idea.”
 - This shows that Jem has a mind of creativity and is able to circumnavigate any difficult situation before him.
 - This is an example of Direct Characterization.

Allusions

- ◎ “See what you’ve done? It hasn’t snowed in Maycomb since Appomattox”
 - This is alluding to the Battle of the Appomattox Courthouse during the Civil War, meaning that it hasn’t snowed in Maycomb County in a very long time.
- ◎ “Now in 1864, when Stonewall Jackson came around by—I beg your pardon, young folks. Ol’ Blue Light was in heaven then, God rest his saintly brow...”
 - This is alluding to the Civil War during the time period that Stonewall Jackson (Confederate general) was killed in the Civil War.

Allusions Cont.

- ◎ “Rose Aylmer was Uncle Jack’s cat. She was a beautiful yellow female Uncle Jack said was one of the few women he could stand permanently.”
 - This is alluding to Rose Aylmer, sister to Matthew-Whitworth Aylmer, and was the inspiration behind the poem of that name by Walter Savage Landor.

Figurative Language

- ◎ “Miss Maudie’s old sunhat glistened with snow crystals.”
 - Personification
- ◎ “Mr. Avery is sort of shaped like a snowman.”
 - Simile
- ◎ “Roaring, the house collapsed; fire gushed everywhere.”
 - Onomatopoeia and personification

Figurative Language Cont.

- ◎ “The fire was well into the second floor and had eaten its way to the roof: window frames were black against a vivid orange center. Jem, it looks like a pumpkin—”
 - Imagery
- ◎ “Uncle Jack plunged into another long tale about an old Prime Minister who ... tried to keep them there when all about him men were losing their heads.”
 - Idiom

Everyone who is Different is a Target

- “Francis rose and sprinted down the catwalk to the old kitchen. At a safe distance he called, ‘He’s nothin’ but a negro-lover!’”
- Everyone calls Atticus a “Negro lover”, and because of his decision to represent Tom Robinson, a Negro, the entire community has begun to despise the Finch Family, even the distant relatives.

The End of Innocence is the Beginning of Growth

- “But at supper that evening when I asked him to pass the damn ham, please, Uncle Jack pointed at me. ‘See me afterwards, young lady,’ he said.”
- This theme is portrayed when Scout Finch has discovered the pleasures of swearing. She has also begun to ask questions that adults are uncomfortable with such as “what’s a whore lady?”