



To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee



The author



- Born in Monroeville, Alabama in 1926 (died February 19, 2016)
- Modeled the main character, Scout, after herself
- Other characters resemble family members

Southern Structure



- Upper class: plantation owners and professionals (doctors, lawyers)
- Middle class: owners of small farms and small-town business owners
- Lower class: African-American farmers and unskilled laborers, such as mill workers

Perspective

★ (The Depression Changes Things) ★

- The average income in 1929 was about \$750
- The average annual farm income was only about \$275
- Classes were divided by land
- Crops were difficult to sell, so farmers' incomes decreased





Southern Heritage



- \$ is not as important as appearances
 - Owning slaves
 - Ancestry



Point of View



- First person
- Scout—6 years old
- Adult Scout-- flashbacks



Irony



- A contradiction of expectation between what is said and what is meant or what might be expected and what actually occurs
- Dramatic, verbal, situational





Dramatic



- A situation in which the audience knows something about the present or future circumstances that the character does not know
- Helps build suspense
- Scary movies: people walking into a room where the audience knows the killer is waiting



Verbal

- A contradiction of expectation between what is said and what is meant
- Sarcasm: Mrs. Tuckett saying, “I see we all studied for the test” as she hands back piles upon piles of failing grades.



Situational



- A contradiction of expectation between what might be expected and what actually occurs
- You neglect your homework because it is supposed to snow overnight. Winds shift throughout the night, and you wake up to a bright, sunny, 50 degree day.





Idiom



- Words or phrases that are not meant to be used literally.
- Dialect or jargon that only certain groups understand
- Examples:
 - Kick the bucket
 - Sick as a dog





Colloquialism



- A word, phrase, or expression characteristic of ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing
 - She's out (She's not home)
 - Gonna or wanna (going to or want to)
 - Jeet yet?





Allusion



A reference to a real or fictitious person, event, place, work of art, or another work of literature within writing.





Dialect



- The language of a particular region or group of people. Includes the sound, spelling, and diction used by that group.
- Used to show a distinction between different characters, to refer to a specific location or time period, or to help the reader hear how a character sounds.





Hyperbole



- A figure of speech in which the author uses exaggeration for emphasis or effect. It is not meant to be taken literally.
- Sometimes called overstatement.





Satire



- A literary work in which the writer tries to point out human vices in order to scorn or ridicule them. The writer can do so by using irony, wit, or sarcasm.
- *Satire uses ridicule to diminish its subject in the eyes of its audience. The authors are intent on making fun of the absurdity, pretension, and corruption of the respective worlds they*
★are portraying.





Symbolism



- A literary device that uses certain objects or images to represent other ideas. Can be something tangible or something abstract or universal (love, hate, jealousy).





Flashback



- Interrupts the plot of a story and goes back to a past event.
- Usually used to show how something or someone was before the story took place.





Foreshadowing



- A technique where future events in a story, or sometimes the outcome, are suggested or hinted at by the author before they happen.
- A method used to build suspense by providing hints of what is to come.





“Strange Fruit”

Sung by Billie Holiday

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4ZyuULy9zs>



Southern trees bear strange fruit

★ Blood on the leaves and blood at the root ★

Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze

Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south

The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth

Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh

Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is the fruit for the crows to pluck

For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck

★ For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop ★

Here is a strange and bitter crop