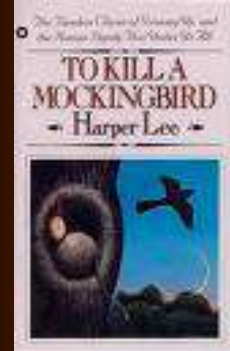


To Kill a Mockingbird

- Let's set the stage for the time.



Setting the Stage



- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- “timeless”; one of the greatest novels of all time; a “masterpiece”
- Place: Maycomb, Alabama
- Time: 1930’s during the Great Depression



Setting the Stage



- "What was Jim Crow?
 - This was a racial caste system operated predominantly in the southern states.
 - This system had the following beliefs. Whites were superior to Blacks in all important ways.
 - If necessary, violence must be used to keep Blacks at the bottom of the racial hierarchy."

**Colored
Served in
Rear**

Setting the Stage for that Time

- Jim Crow Etiquette Norms

- "A Black male could not offer his hand (to shake hands) with a White male because it implied being socially equal. Obviously, a Black male could not offer his hand or any other part of his body to a White woman, because he risked being accused of rape."



Setting the Stage for that Time



- Jim Crow Etiquette Norms

- "Blacks and Whites were not supposed to eat together
- Under no circumstances was a Black male to offer to light a cigarette of a white female—it implied intimacy
- Blacks were not supposed to show public affection toward one another because it offended Whites"

Setting the Stage for that Time

- Jim Crow Etiquette Norms
 - "Blacks were introduced to Whites; never Whites to Blacks.
 - Whites did not use the courtesy titles of respect when referring to Blacks
 - If a Black person rode in a car driven by a White person, the Black person sat in the back seat, or the back of a truck
 - White motorists had the right-of-way at all intersections."

Setting the Stage for that Time

- Plessy vs Ferguson
 - “Equal but separate”
 - The case...
 - “This would become one of the most famous decisions in American History
 - Message sent: Discrimination against Blacks is acceptable.”



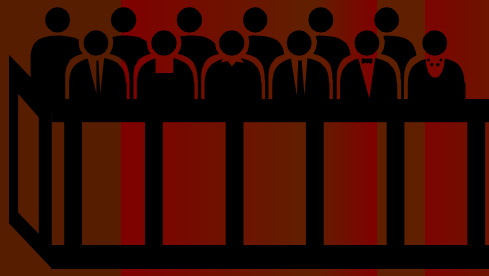


Setting the Stage



- More laws regulating social interactions between races
 - "Jim Crow signs were placed above water fountains, door entrances and exits, and in front of public facilities
 - There were separate hospitals, prisons, public and private schools, separate churches, cemeteries, public restrooms, public accommodations... for Blacks and Whites."

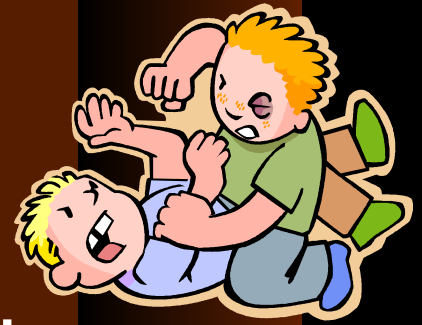




Setting the Stage

- If laws weren't followed through, people resorted to violence.
- "Blacks who violated Jim Crow norms like drinking from a White water fountain or trying to vote, risked their homes, their jobs, even their lives.
- Blacks had little legal recourse because the criminal justice system was all-White."

Setting the Stage



- "Lynchings were public, often sadistic, murders carried out by mobs.
- Most victims of the Lynch-Law were hanged or shot, but some were burned at the stake, castrated, beaten with clubs, or dismembered.
- Whites felt justified because Blacks were prone to violent crimes, especially the rapes of White women. Later we would find out that approximately one-third of all the victims were falsely accused."



A final note

- "Many Blacks resisted the injustices of Jim Crow, and, far too often, they paid for their bravery with their lives."



Works Cited

- "What was Jim Crow?" 1 September, 2008.
<http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/what.htm>