*To Kill a Mockingbird:* A Brief Introduction

Harper Lee

* Born in 1926
* Grew up in Monroeville, Alabama
* Was a child during the Great Depression
* Jean Louise “Scout” Finch is based on Lee’s childhood experiences

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

* Published in 1960
* Won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961
* The film adaptation won three Oscars in 1962
* Instant bestseller
* Sparked much controversy

Themes

* Prejudice vs. Tolerance
* Ignorance vs. Knowledge
* Cowardice vs. Courage

Primary Characters

* Jean Louise “Scout” Finch—narrator, almost 6 years old at the beginning of the novel. Our hero
* Jeremy “Jem” Finch—Scout’s 10 year old brother who broke his arm at the age of 13. Still remembers his mother, who died when he was 5.
* Atticus Finch—Lawyer, father of Scout and Jem. Teaches them wrong from right.
* Calpurnia—The Finches’ cook; constantly sides with Atticus
* Charlie Baker “Dill” Harris—the Finches’ summer friend. Smart, friendly, and very small. Obsessed with the Radley House
* Arthur “Boo” Radley—the object of mystery to our young heroes. Allegedly lives in the Radley house
* Nathan Radley—Boo’s father
* Miss Maudie and Stephanie Crawford—the Finches’ neighbors

More characters will appear as the novel progresses!