

Do before final draft.

100

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Period: 7th

Identifying Prejudice in *To Kill A Mockingbird*

Due Date: September 15, 2011

Consider the numerous instances of prejudice (racism and social injustice) in the novel. Record three examples and explain the insight gained into the characters from each example. Read the example below for guidance.

Evidence (with page number)	Explanation of why the evidence is important (3-5 sentences for <u>each</u> piece of evidence)
"It's not necessary to tell all you know. . . folks don't like to have somebody around knowin' more than they do. It aggravates 'em. You're not gonna change any of them by talkin' right, they've got to want to learn themselves, and when they don't want to learn there's nothing you can do but keep your mouth shut or talk their language." (105-106)	Calpurnia is teaching Scout and Jem a valuable lesson about making people feel comfortable. Her explanation helps the reader understand why Calpurnia speaks one way in her own community and a different way in the Finch household. She wants the kids to know that people only change when they want to, so it is more important to relate to people than try to make a person become someone he or she is not. This is a sophisticated lesson for kids Jem and Scout's age to learn, and reveals the depth of their relationship with Calpurnia. She is playing the role of their mother.

When writing your explanation of the quote's value, consider these questions:

- What lesson does the character learn or teach in the quote?
- What does the quote reveal about the character? (Strengths, weaknesses, values or beliefs)
- What is the character's motivation (reason) for doing or saying this?
- What do other characters learn from this example of prejudice?
- How does this example of prejudice damage or strengthen relationships between characters?

These questions are designed to give you some direction when explaining the evidence. You SHOULD NOT answer each question. Instead, discuss one of the questions that relates most closely to the quote.

Tips:

- This is your OPINION about how the quotes shows a character is prejudice
- This should provide insight into the evidence; it DOES NOT repeat what happens in the story.
- This explanation should be your own; it should not read like another student's analysis.

Evidence (with page number)	Explanation of why the evidence is important (3-5 sentences for <u>each</u> piece of evidence)
1.	

1. "There was indeed a caste system in Maycomb...Thus the dicta No Crawford Minds His Own Business, Every Third Merriweather Is Morbid, The Truth Is Not in the Delafields, All the Bufords Walk Like That, were simply guides to daily living...Aunt Alexandra fitted into the world of Maycomb like a hand into a glove, but never into the world of Jem and me."

In describing the social rankings that are found within Maycomb, Scout explains that the different town families are in categories that, supposedly, always portray the people being referred to. She says that Aunt Alexandra does not fit into her and Jem's life, however at other points in the story Scout is subject to falling into the mindset that is a result of this caste system. Living in a town of prejudice has affected Scout, but she still has time to learn differently. This quote is a glimpse into the world that Jem and Scout live in. It sheds light onto the personality of Aunt Alexandra, as well as Scout.

2. "I shut my eyes. Judge Taylor was polling the jury: "Guilty...guilty...guilty...guilty..." I peeked at Jem: his hands were white from gripping the balcony rail, and his shoulders jerked as if each "guilty" was a separate stab between them."

The jury has decided that Tom Robinson is guilty, and Jem is not taking it well. Jem and Scout learn from this experience that sometimes things do not turn out the way that they want, or even the way that is fair and just. They learn that even with a great argument on their father's part, a white jury will not stand up for an African-American man. Judgment levels ran high in that courtroom, and because of that, Tom Robinson eventually lost his life.

3. "Cecil Jacobs made me forget. He had announced in the schoolyard the day before that Scout Finch's daddy defended n*****. I denied it, but told Jem."

Through this example of prejudice, Scout learned a few important things; one of them being how cruel kids can be. She has to face Cecil, who is insulting Atticus about defending Tom Robinson in court. Scout does not understand exactly how Cecil is offending her father, but she knows that it is happening and she will not stand for it. Scout also learns the reason for Atticus representing Tom in court.