

**Summer 2016 Reading Assignment**  
***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

“The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience.”

-spoken by Atticus Finch in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*

When Harper Lee’s book was published in 1960, it became an overnight sensation. Courageous Americans were bringing issues of race, fairness, and simple justice to the attention of the nation and the world by appealing to the conscience of all people everywhere. The discussions they inspired are at the heart of a democratic society—one that truly strives to provide “equal rights for all.” Throughout the course of the school year, we will explore the themes of growth, caring, justice, and democracy – all which are at the heart of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. If you have read this novel in the past, read it again. If you have never read it, please do not complete this assignment without doing so. You will only be cheating yourself.

As you read the novel, consider the following questions:

*How has the community you've grown up in influenced the person you are today?*

*Has there been a moment when your sense of self has come into conflict with the norms in your community?*

**Please complete the novel and complete the attached historical context webquest found below. All work is due the first day of class.**

## *To Kill a Mockingbird* Historical Context Webquest

Although Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a work of fiction, the story is based on and set in a historically accurate context. In order to appreciate the novel's setting and recognize its relevance today, you must understand this time period.

- A. Use the websites below to answer questions regarding the novel's controversy, the Great Depression, Jim Crow Laws, the Scottsboro Trials, and the Civil Rights Movement. We will refer to all of these topics when we discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- B. Type your answers into a separate Word document.
- C. Within your word document, you will need to give each section headings. Follow the instructions for each task very carefully.
- D. See the rubric at the end of this document to determine your grade.

### Part I: Censorship and Controversy

[http:// www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics)

[http:// www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics/reasons](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics/reasons)

[http:// www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-27-spring-2005/feature/books-under-fire](http://www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-27-spring-2005/feature/books-under-fire)

1. Where does the novel appear on the 100 Most Frequently Challenged book list?
2. Name two other titles that you were surprised to find on this list. Explain why you were surprised to see these titles.
3. A challenge occurs when someone attempts to remove a book from school curriculum or libraries; if the material is removed, it is considered banned. Why has *To Kill a Mockingbird* been challenged?
4. Why do others disagree with this challenge?

### Part II: The Great Depression

#### Overview

[http:// www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/about.htm](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/about.htm)

[http:// www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/overview.htm](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/overview.htm)

#### Photographs

[http:// www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm)

[http:// rs6.loc.gov/ammem/fsowcap.html](http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/fsowcap.html)

1. Look at some photographs from the Great Depression. Describe one and explain why it has an impact on you.
2. When did the Great Depression occur?
3. Why did the Great Depression occur?
4. Who was president when the depression started, and who was president during the New Deal?
5. What was the New Deal?

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsahtml/fahome.html>

Look through the numerous links of photographs depicting towns in Alabama and the FSA-OWA photographs. Choose one, copy it into your word document and respond. Describe the way of life for a person living in the setting of this photograph. You can be creative here. Certainly you will need to identify your person/character (indicating race, age, and sex might be important), the setting, and an overall daily routine. You may set this up as a journal entry, a story, an article, etc. Remember—this is all based on the photo you have selected—and

your photo does not need to contain people. This should be at least a full page with solid details.

### Part III: Jim Crow Laws/ Segregation

[http:// www.ferris.edu/news/ jimcrow/ what.htm](http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/what.htm)  
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAjimcrow.htm>

**Task:** You are a reporter who has been assigned to write an explanatory story on the Jim Crow laws and segregation in the 1930s. As you click on the links above to investigate your facts, be sure to answer the following in your article:

1. What were the Jim Crow Laws? Was Jim Crow a real person?
2. What is segregation?
3. Where/how did Jim Crow Laws begin?
4. Where in America did segregation occur?
5. How did these laws and practices affect blacks in America?

[http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/085\\_disc.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/085_disc.html)

**Task:** Choose one of the “Enforcing Racial Discrimination” photographs. Copy it into your word document. Explain how both a white man living in the South in the 1930s and a white man living in the North in the 2000s would react to the picture you’ve chosen. What might each say or do?

### Part IV: The Scottsboro Trials

[http:// www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/timeline/index.html>  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/sfeature/sf\\_lynching.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/scottsboro/sfeature/sf_lynching.html)  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/12111/SG/SG5.html?tqskip1=1&tqtime=1103>

1. Write description of the Scottsboro Trials.
2. Be sure to address the following:
  - a. What was the trial about?
  - b. Who was on trial? Why? When did the trial occur?
  - c. Why were the “boys” accused?
  - d. What happened during the trial? Did they get a fair trial/were they adequately represented?
  - e. What were the facts of the case?
  - f. What was the outcome of the trial? Were there any appeals? What was learned after the trial?
  - g. How did this trial affect America?
  - h. What was the verdict? How did America respond? Explain.

### Part V: The Civil Rights Movement

[http:// www.watson.org/~ lisa/blackhistory/civilrights-55-65/index.html](http://www.watson.org/~lisa/blackhistory/civilrights-55-65/index.html)

1. When was the Civil Rights Movement?
2. The site lists seven aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. Choose one and write a detailed description/ summarization.

## Part VI: Reflection

Choose a character you respect from TKAM-- Scout, Jem, or Atticus. Identify a characteristic (value) that allows this character to live a successful life. Thinking of this character write a reflection.

1. Introduce the character and his/her values
2. Provide two to three examples from TKAM (with page numbers) that support your recognition of this characteristic
3. Explain your reasons for valuing this characteristic and how you could personally demonstrate this in your own life

### Rubric

This webquest is worth 200 points. Each part will be graded using the following numerical scale:

*25=Awesome! Extraordinary!; 20=Great job! Lots of good stuff!; 15=Pretty good, but needs some work; 10=Needs a lot work; 5=Where's the effort?; 0=Missing or incomplete*

Things to think about:

- In essays/ articles—introduction, body, & conclusion; excellent details; smooth transitions; clear main idea; fresh original thoughts & ideas
- In question/answer sections—complete sentences; excellent details; answers all parts of the question
- In all sections—free of spelling & grammatical errors; no typos; correct sentence structure and word usage; sophisticated writing style; strong and specific vocabulary
- Your work should show your best work and lots of effort!

<b>Part I: Censorship and Controversy</b>	
<b>Part II: The Great Depression</b>	
<b>Part III: Jim Crow Laws/Segregation</b>	
<b>Part IV: The Scottsboro Trials</b>	
<b>Part V: The Civil Rights Movement</b>	
<b>Part VI: Reflection</b>	
<b>Part VII: Presentation and Formatting</b>	
<b>Total Points Awarded</b>	