

SYNOPSIS

The story of *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes place in Alabama and narrated by the main character, a little girl named Scout Finch. Her father, Atticus Finch, is a lawyer. She and her brother, Jem, and their friend Dill are curious about a man named Boo Radley who lives in their neighborhood but never goes outside his house. Further, Maycomb citizens consider him as a kind of monster. The children are curious to know more about Boo. This curiosity brings them to create a mini-drama performance, which tells the events of his life. They are also slowly begun moving closer to the house itself, which is said to be haunted and leaving notes for Boo on his windowsill, but are caught by Atticus.

Then, the children are sneaking into the house at night and looking through its windows. However, Boo's brother, Nathan Radley, thinks he hears a rubber and begins firing his gun. The children get away and Jem loses his pants in Radley's gate. When he returns to get his pant back, he felt surprised because his ripped pants have been folded and sewn up. Other mysterious things also happen to Jem and Scout. A certain tree near the Radley's house has a hole in which little presents are often left for them, such as pennies and chewing gum. When they leave a note for the giver of these gifts, Boo's brother plugs up the hole the next day with cement. Later, the next winter brings unexpected cold and snows in Maycomb County. The house of the kind neighbor Miss Maudie catches on fire. While Jem and Scout, shivering, watch the fire from near the Radley's house,

someone puts a blanket around Scout. She does not realize until afterwards that Boo Radley must have been the one to do this.

In a while, Atticus decides to take on a case involving a black man named Tom Robinson who has been accused of raping a very poor white girl named Mayella Ewell. The Finches all face harsh criticism in racist Maycomb because of Atticus's decision to defend Tom. He knows that Tom has almost no chance, since the white jury will never believe his story, but he wants to reveal the truth of what happened to the townspeople. One day, Calpurnia, a black woman who works for the Finches family, take Jem and Scout to the black's church. When they are return from church they find that Aunt Alexandra, Atticus's sister, has arrived to stay and teach Scout how to act as a lady. The first time of she arrives, she begins showing to Scout about Calpurnia's inferior position. Aunt Alexandra also wants to fire Calpurnia because she thinks that the children should not be under the influence of a black woman. Alexandra feels sure that herself would set a better example for the children, especially for Scout.

Meanwhile, the time for the trial draws closer. The night before the trial, Tom is moved into the county jail, and Atticus, fearing a possible lynching, stands guard outside the jail door all night. Jem is concerned about him, and the three children slip into town to find him. A group of men arrives ready to cause some violence to Tom, but Scout runs out and begins to speak to one of the men. Her innocence brings them out of their mob mentality, and they leave. Finally the trial took place with the evidence of the white Ewells against Tom's evidence. According to the Ewells, Mayella asked Tom to do some works for her while her

father was out, and Tom came into her house then beat and raped Mayella until her father appeared and scared him away. Tom says that Mayella invited him inside, then threw her arms around him and began to kiss him. When her father arrived, he got angry and beat her, while Tom ran away in fright. According to the sheriff's testimony, Mayella's bruises were on the right side of her face. Tom Robinson's left arm is useless due to an old accident, whereas Mr. Ewell leads with his left. Dealing with the evidence above, Tom is innocent and should go free, but the jury still pronounces him guilty. Then, Atticus is hoping for an appeal, but unfortunately Tom tries to escape from his prison and is shot to death.

In the meantime, Mr. Ewell has been threatening Atticus and other people connected with the trial because he feels he was humiliated. He gets his revenge one night while Jem and Scout are walking home from Halloween play at their school. He follows them home in the dark, then runs at them and tries to kill them. Jem breaks his arm, and Scout is helpless throughout the attack. However, Boo Radley saves Jem and Scout by stabbing Mr. Ewell. Scout finally has a chance to meet Boo Radley. The sheriff declares that Mr. Ewell fell on his own knife so that Boo will not be pronounced guilty. Scout walks Boo home. He goes inside and she never sees him again.