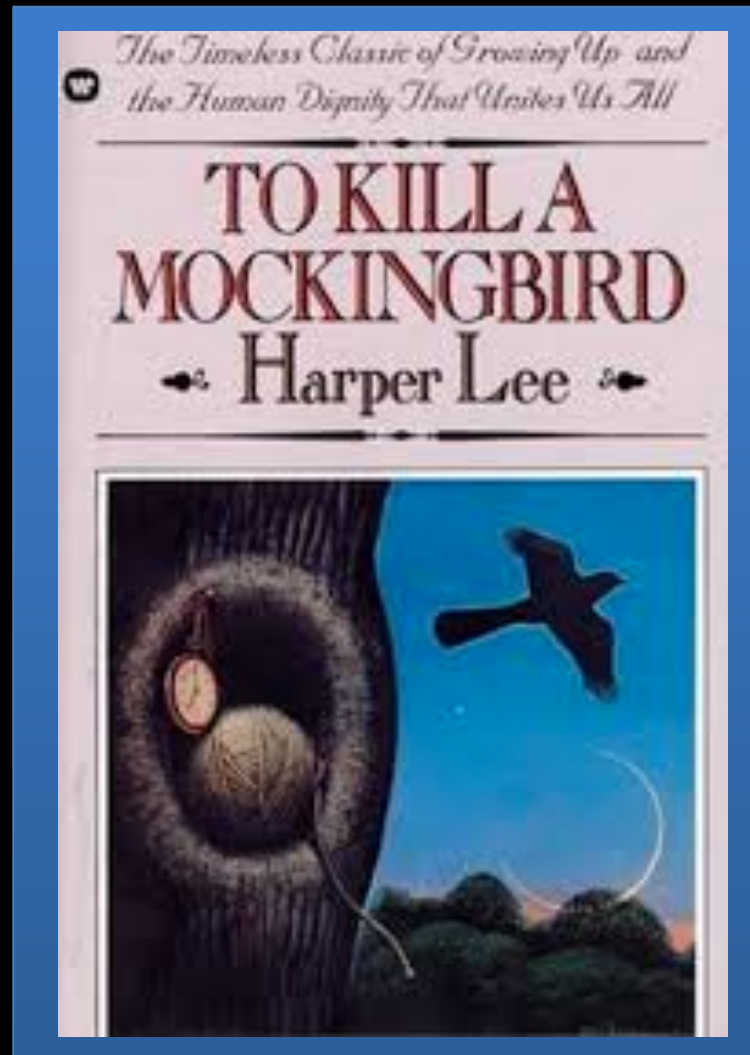


To Kill A Mockingbird

Chapters 16 - 18



Chapter 16

The next morning they all ate breakfast and talked about what happened the night before. Atticus said that the mob was just a bunch of men and that it took an eight-year-old to remind them of that. Aunt Alexandra said children who snuck out at night shamed their families.

Atticus left for the courthouse. The children sat on the porch and watched people walk by the house going downtown to watch Tom Robinson's trial. After lunch, Jem, Scout, and Dill went downtown too. Everyone was sitting outside the courthouse having picnics. When it was time for the trial, there were so many people that Jem, Scout, and Dill could not find a place to sit. Reverend Sykes from Calpurnia's church took them up to the balcony. Just as they were sitting down, the first witness took the stand. The witness was Mr. Tate, the sheriff.

Chapter 17

Mr. Tate said Mr. Ewell came and told him his daughter was hurt. Atticus asked Mr. Tate if he had called a doctor since Mayella had been beaten. Mr. Tate said he had not. Mr. Tate described Mayelle's injuries--bruises on the right side of her face and neck.

Next, Mr. Ewell told his story about the night Mayella was hurt. He agreed with Mr. Tate that Mayella was beaten on the right side of her face. Atticus asked Mr. Ewell to write his name on a piece of paper. Mr. Ewell wrote with his left hand.

Scout knew Atticus was trying to prove that Mr. Ewell had beaten Mayella since he was left handed, and she was beaten mostly on the right side of her face. But Scout wondered if this was enough proof.

Chapter 18

The next witness was Mayella. Mayella said on the night she was attacked, she was sitting on her porch when Tom Robinson walked by. Mayella offered to give him a nickel if he would come inside the fence and chop up an old dresser. She said when she turned her back, he attacked her. She screamed and fought back.

Atticus asked Mayella if she loved her father. He asked if her father had ever hurt her. Mayella answered that her father had never touched her. Atticus asked if she had screamed, then why didn't her brothers and sisters come running. He asked if she had started screaming when she saw her father in the window.

Atticus asked her to point out who had attacked her. She pointed to Tom Robinson. Atticus asked Tom to stand up. Then Atticus asked Mayella again if this was the man who attacked her and beat her on the right side of her face. She said it was, but Scout saw something when Tom stood up. She saw that his left arm much shorter than this right arm. Reverend Sykes, who was sitting with them, said Tom got his arm caught in a cotton gin machine when he was young and has not been able to use that arm since.

Atticus asked Mayella again if it was Tom that beat her up and not her father. Mayella said that it was Tom, and if they didn't believe her then they were all cowards. Then she started crying and wouldn't answer any more questions.