



To Kill a Mockingbird A Quest for Justice and Truth

Many people consider *To Kill a Mockingbird* a story about one community's quest for justice and truth. Write one to two sentences about how each quotation supports this interpretation. Then add another quote from the novel that supports this big idea, and write a sentence to explain your selected quote's relevance. Finally, complete the two sentences at the bottom of the worksheet, using the word *prejudice* in each of your answers.

1. "Link, that boy might go to the chair, but he's not going till the truth's told." Atticus's voice was even. "And you know what the truth is." (page 195)

2. "What did your father see in the window, the crime of rape or the best defense to it? Why don't you tell the truth, child, didn't Bob Ewell beat you up?" (page 251)

3. "But this is a truth that applies to the human race and to no particular race of men. There is not a person in this courtroom who has never told a lie, who has never done an immoral thing, and there is no man living who has never looked upon a woman without desire." (page 273)

4. "Atticus had used every tool available to free men to save Tom Robinson, but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case. Tom was a dead man the minute Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and screamed." (page 323)

My Quote:

(page _____)

Relevance:

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, justice means

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the truth means

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Answer Key

Sample answers:

1. This quote shows how much Atticus cares about the truth because he wants the whole town to hear it even if it won't change the outcome of the trial.
2. Atticus begs Mayella to tell the truth and gives her every chance to, but she is too afraid of her father to do so.
3. Atticus tells the jury that no one is perfect and that we must be compassionate with each other; he begs them to listen to their consciences and do the right thing by Tom Robinson.
4. Even though Atticus did his very best, he had no chance to win this case because decades of prejudice and discrimination made the jury favor the word of a white woman over that of a black man.