

# Abhorrence of Racism in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*

**K. S. Sri Devi**

Bachelor of Arts, Department of English  
EMG Yadava Women's College  
Thiruppalai, Madurai

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## Abstract

Nelle Harper Lee was an American writer, who has published only two Novels in her lifetime. She is much acclaimed for her novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* [1960]. The novel deals with the issues of rape, racial inequality, racial injustice and demolition of innocence. The novel depicts the dilemma of racism and bright side of discrimination. In this story the author uses memorable characters to explore the civil rights and viciousness. Racial discrimination is treated based on the colour of their skin. The white Americans regards themselves of having high values. There is a major inequality between the black and waxen people. Black people were considered as inequitable, compared with the waxen people they result in exploitation and molest. This article focuses on the feeling of revulsion among the coloured race due to racial discrimination. The novel deals with the theme of coexistence of moral and wicked, significance of moral education and the existence of social inequality.

**Keywords:** Discrimination, supremacy, Racial injustice, Inequality.

The definition of Abhorrence of racism states that a belief or doctrine that inherent difference among the various human racial groups determines cultural or individual achievement. It involves the idea of that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others. Racism is also called racialism. The abhorrence means a feeling of strong repugnance or disgust. In highlighting the various forms of racism, discrimination and prejudice, this entry provides an overview of adolescent's experiences with implicit, explicit implications for their development and psychological well-being. Human racial classifications are arbitrary. Implicit racism refers to subconscious biases and attitudes towards those who are perceived to form ethnic or racial groups.

Nelle Harper Lee was an American novelist best known for the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*. She assisted her close friend Truman Capote in his research for the book *In Cold Blood* (1906). Capote was the basis for the character Dill in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Harper Lee's literary movement was southern gothic. Harper Lee's way of writing is accurate, realistic and quite straight forward, she uses it cleverly to create tension and suspense when needed. Harper Lee's says that 1963 is not my end, but a beginning. The most important theme of *To Kill A Mockingbird* is the moral nature of human beings, and the co-existence of moral and wicked.

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The town's black resident Tom Robinson is falsely blamed of raping a young white woman, Mayella Ewell. Despite the threats from the community, Atticus Finch agrees to defend him. Blacks are always convicted by the whites. One must not allow one's creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. The novel deals with the irrationality of adult attitudes towards race and class in the deep south of the 1930. A white has no supremacy over blacks likewise, black has no superiority over whites. "Mockingbird don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs" (KMB 88). Whites do not allow blacks to be united. It takes an anti-racial approach to condemn injustices against minority groups by an overly prejudiced society. Racialization refers to the process of ascribing racial identities to a relationship or social practices (Miles,1989). Blacks are biologically "Raced" and have a history of race. In stark contrast, Whites are "Unraced" and have no history and role in racial oppression.

Antagonism is a global reality. The nation of inequality is inseparable from that of human dignity essential to each and every person. Racial discrimination continues to hinder progress and the enjoyment of rights for millions of people. Though affirmative action is intended to make equitable for ethnic and racial minorities, it is not uncommon for white Americans to claim that such policies are discriminatory against racial applicants. The fact is, in two parts of this country, a deep distrust exists with the communities of colour. Some of this is the result of the legacy of racial discrimination in this country. Most people believe that race exists. "Just as the sun appears to orbit the earth." Humans appear to belong to distinct and easily identifiable groups. All humans are really African under skin; and human diversity. But the racism is based on a misperception of reality and it as untrue as it is deplorable. Racism isn't wrong because there aren't races; it is wrong because it violates basic human decorum and modern virtuous ideals.

Discrimination means a prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action or treatment. Racial discrimination is treated based on the colour of their skin. It comes under two forms extrinsic and intrinsic. Extrinsic states that, believe that a certain race is bad. Intrinsic states that, hatred towards a certain race. Discrimination can be verbal, including making threats or mocking others. Discrimination is multifaceted. In this novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* the word discrimination plays a essential role. Throughout the novel there is a difference between the upper class and lower class, white trash and black community. Top-drawer people have plethora money to get what they want without much struggle. They consume cooks, drivers etc... but they do not have immoderate extravagant things. They receive formal education. But the proletariat people are hurt because of the depression caused by the upper class. The working class struggles rigorously for food and shelter. These people work hard but, they had a limited formal education. The Waxen people lacked in formal education. The black community people worked hard and supported each other. The working class was proud among their community but preoccupy with fear. In the black community, only few received the formal education and have assets status. The people of May comb automatically start

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calling him, scout and Jem “nigger lovers” to safeguard a black man. Atticus is giving his attestation to Tom that “she was white, and she tempted a Negro. She did something that in our society is unspeakable: she kissed a black man. Not an old uncle, but a strong young negro man. The cipher refers to Atticus, deals with taking advantages of lower class.

The term supremacy means the possessive investment in whiteness. But the whiteness has a high value among them. Ewell is a despicable character. Ewell states that hate speech is both condoned and tolerated. “The great ingenuity of interventions like affirmative action has not been that they give (white) American a way to identify with the struggle of blacks, but that they give them a way to identify with racial virtuousness quite apart from blacks” (OD 93). White people have no affirmative respect among with the black people. There is no unity among the black people and white people. There are pockets of neo-Nazis and white supremacists who rage in our society. In creating a separation between themselves, the actions of Bob Ewell , makes the audience to feel good about themselves while leaving the issue of system, white supremacy, untouched and unchallenged. In this novel Bob Radley, a white reclusive neighbour, has protected scout and other from an attack by Bob Ewell in the process. Tom Robinson after all, has been found guilty for assaulting even though it’s clear that the evidence is against him. The systemic racism works silently to uphold white supremacy by keeping people of colour at a sustained place of disadvantage. While the black verbal threats and hurt, the white people work calmly to uphold the black supremacy.

In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the premise is specific and yet applicable to any timeline. The novel shows that the dilemma of racism, along with the dark sides of human nature. This leads to the destruction and emotional death of like Boo Radley and Tom Robinson. The unjustified and cruel prejudicial system of Maycomb destroys a person’s lives. The most evident victim of discrimination is Tom Robinson, who is declared guilty of a false charge of raping a white woman. Tom is convicted because of the colour of his skin. The premise of education in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is not only evident but also very penetrating. In Maycomb the education system leaves much to be covet. Atticus infuse love and benefit of good education in Jem and Scout. Atticus also takes pride in inculcating the roots of moral education in his children.

In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* there is a social inequality between the Scout and Jem of understanding Macomb’s social status. On talking about social inequality Harper Lee’s says that “Hush your mouth! don’t matter who they are, anybody sets foot in this house”. There is major inequality between the black and coloured skin people. Social inequality is an issue that the American society has been struggling to solve for the future generations. “In years to come he would be a giver of bread, not a stealer proof again of the contradictory human being. So much good, so much evil, just add water”. (BT 171). In future white people are going to be a server of bread to black, but they are not a stealer proof and they are going to opposed the black people. Experienced community echelons of Maycomb explore the differences in the community status of the people. In the novel *To Kill A*

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*Mockingbird*, rich finches are at the top of the ranking, the Cunningham's are at the bottom, while the Ewell's and other communities are in the middle of this hierarchal social system. Lee uses many languages techniques throughout the novel to depict social inequality. A deprived genus in Maycomb is the Cunningham's. They don't consent anything from people if they can't return it. Scout run into the Cunningham's on her first day of school, when Walter Cunningham is in her class. Walter does not have lunch or lunch money. Her classmates ask her to explain to the teacher why Walter won't take a quarter to buy a lunch and she tells the teacher about the Cunningham's pecuniary situation and how they trade goods for services. Scout and the other children have a clear understanding of the social inequalities in Maycomb.

Harper Lee in this work portrays the moral nature of human beings, especially the struggle in every human soul between discrimination and tolerance. Black people were considered as unequal compared with the white people, they result in mistreatment and abuse. To remove this veil we should take the man like Atticus Finch as a role model to pass his morality and nobility to young. Only humanity and good nature rise up our good relationships to be united. Finally, the black people require place in the hard work and effort to support the legal equality and moral dignity of all anthropoid.

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