

To Kill a Mockingbird Comparison

Throughout the novel we get acquainted to many different characters; there are three characters in particular who are interesting taking a closer look at – two of them are Scout (Jean Louise Finch) and Atticus Finch. As father and daughter they are very different and Scout's opinion about the world and people surrounding her is very individual for a child and even though Atticus has a big impact on her life she keeps her individuality and stubbornness. The fact that Scout is still a child makes it rather difficult comparing the two characters and therefore this essay will focus on Atticus and Mr. Bob Ewell – not that Scout reminds of Mr. Ewell but because there is no doubt that the biggest contrast to be found in the novel is the one between Atticus and Mr. Ewell. Atticus stands for everything that is good in Maycomb whereas Mr. Ewell stands for everything that creates a shadow over the idyll of the town.

Fair, optimistic and patient are just some of the adjectives describing Atticus Finch. He has taught Scout many useful lessons throughout her childhood such as judging people on their intentions rather than by their actions (Page 33 "...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.") or not to misuse a power over other living creatures (Page 99 "but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird"). Atticus does not use guns himself because he feels it gives him an unfair advantage over innocent living things and he tries to teach Scout and Jem about the responsibilities that come with the power of having a gun. However, there is one place in the book where Atticus puts aside his moral beliefs and that is where he shoots the rabid dog. This symbolizes how he doesn't only protect his children and Tom Robinson, but the whole town.

Describing Atticus's actions as heroic might be an exaggeration but it is not wrong using the word in the context with what Atticus does for Tom Robinson. He defends Tom Robinson to set a good example for his children – to make them understand that courage has to do with the fighting for someone no matter whom and how many is against you. He also wants to be able to hold his head up high when he walks along the streets of Maycomb. One of the most important and valuable qualities that Atticus possesses is that he is the same whether he is at home or in public. Atticus has nothing to hide and the town respects him more than any other person. Even though he is not perfect he has an extremely upright moral and he strives to treat everyone equal.

Mr. Ewell is everything that Atticus is not. People in Maycomb are all relatively poor but Mr. Ewell belongs to the society's poorest people. Had it not been for his ignorance towards everyone he would have been a character one would feel sorry for. Mr. Ewell manages to bend the law without anyone commenting on it – they choose to ignore this fact because they think about Mr. Ewell's children who would never get anything to eat if he could not hunt out of season since he drinks up all the money the family possesses. Where Atticus's priority is to bring up his children in the best possible way, Mr. Ewell just does not care. Atticus's education is a very valuable thing but Mr. Ewell's children are allowed to join school for one day every year even though school is obligatory. People turn a blind eye to his actions because they know they cannot change the Ewells. Mr. Ewell falsely accuses Tom Robinson of rape – it is the only way of getting the town's attention and covering his own sins, like abusing his own daughter.