

## Why You Should Read To Kill A Mockingbird...

(Check out a sample book club kit on this novel):

<http://bookclubclassics.com/Blog/wp-content/uploads/2007/10/to-kill-a-mockingbird-sample-kit.pdf>

1. **Scout!** Harper Lee achieves an unforgettable, unique voice in this first person narrator. Scout's sense of humor and sassy attitude are priceless.
2. **Maycomb!** Lee creates a sense of place with this small, Southern town that is reminiscent of those aspects of childhood – and of human nature – that resonate and allow the reader to be compassionate, even when justifiably judging the myopic nature of the town.
3. **Characters!** Beyond the character of Scout, Atticus, Jem, Dill, and Boo Radley have entered the national consciousness in an enduring manner.
4. Lee's portrayal of America's burden: **racism**. Through the narration, setting, and characterization, Lee allows us to face America's regrettable legacy of racism, as well as the courage it required to overcome the institutional aspects that have been and are continuing to be overcome throughout society.
5. It is simply **a good read**. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> most often taught novel in American schools and even 9<sup>th</sup> graders love it...☺

## Why You May Struggle With To Kill A Mockingbird...

1. Readers have struggled with Atticus' role as a “great white hope,” saving the “helpless” African American characters.
2. Scout seems wise beyond her years (although the novel is told as a flashback, so she is actually reflecting on the events after a few years have passed).
3. Some school districts have banned the novel due to a degrading portrayal of the African American characters who can be 2-dimensional.
4. The novel feels overly moralistic at times – especially a few of Atticus' platitudes.
5. The first chapter is a little slow, but Lee's attention to detail and ancestral history is one of the great legacies of Southern storytelling.