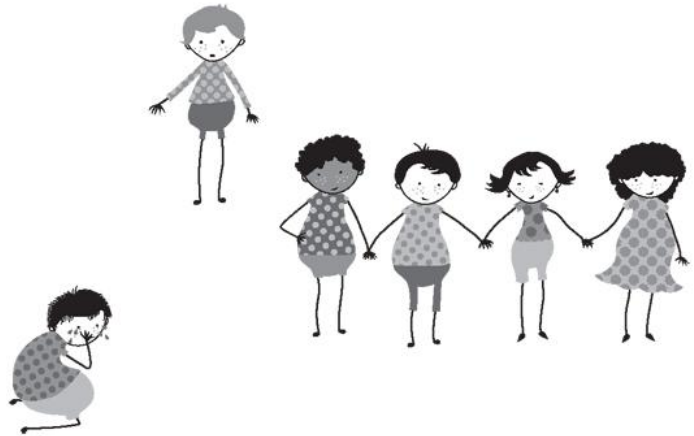


TOPIC AREA: CHALLENGING PREJUDICE

Prejudice is a belief, opinion or judgment that is not based on fact or reason. Instead it is based on a pre-conceived stereotype.



ACTIVITY ONE: IDENTIFYING MESSAGES

Read the following article about prejudice in the novel.

<http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=22258> (Also saved in studocs if the internet is slow😊)

1. In this article the writer identifies a range of ideas/messages that he believes are present in To Kill a Mockingbird about challenging prejudice. Find TWO and summarise them in your own words.
(Note: A *message* is an idea or moral that Harper Lee communicates through the novel.)
2. What makes these ideas relevant to the writer of the article? Which current events have influenced his perspective?

ACTIVITY TWO: CHARACTER AND INCIDENTS

1. Atticus is the character who is most significant in the novel in terms of exploring the theme of challenging prejudice. How does he challenge prejudice? (Consider his role in protecting and defending both Tom Robinson and Boo Radley.)
2. What are Atticus' main strategies in challenging prejudice? How successful are they?
3. Select THREE quotes below that you believe demonstrate Harper Lee's message about challenging prejudice. For each quote, do the following:
 - Find the context of the quote by locating it in your copy of the novel
 - Identify language techniques (symbolism, foreshadowing, emotive language...)
 - Explain the significance of the quote in terms of the message about challenging prejudice
4. Overall, what central message do you believe Harper Lee presents in the novel about challenging prejudice? Summarise this message in one sentence.

KEY QUOTES: PREJUDICE

‘Why reasonable people go stark raving mad when anything involving a Negro comes up, is something I don't pretend to understand.’

~ *Chapter 9, spoken by the character Atticus*

It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived.

~ *Chapter 11*

When he gave us our air-rifles Atticus wouldn't teach us to shoot. Uncle Jack instructed us in the rudiments thereof; he said Atticus wasn't interested in guns. Atticus said to Jem, "I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."

That was the only time I ever hear Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it. "You're father's right," she said. "Mockingbirds 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, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mocking bird."

~ *Chapter 11* [consider the motif/symbolism of the mockingbird throughout the novel when identifying language techniques]

‘They're certainly entitled to think that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions... but before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.’

~ *Chapter 11, spoken by the character Atticus*

‘I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you

begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.'

~ Chapter 11, spoken by the character Atticus about Mrs Dubose

"The witnesses for the state have presented themselves to you gentlemen, to this court, in the cynical confidence that their testimony would not be doubted, confident that you gentlemen would go along with them on the assumption-the evil assumption-that *all* Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings, that all Negro men are not to be trusted around our women, an assumption one associates with minds of their caliber. Which, gentlemen, we know is in itself a lie as black as Tom Robinson's skin, a lie I do not have to point out to you. You know the truth, the truth is this: some Negroes lie, some Negroes are immoral, some Negro men cannot be trusted around women, black or white. But this is a truth that applies to the human race and to no particular race of men."

~ Atticus summing up at the court case

'The one place where a man ought to get a square deal is in a courtroom, be he any color of the rainbow, but people have a way of carrying their resentments right into a jury box. As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it - whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash.'

~ Chapter 23, spoken by the character Atticus

I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks.

~ Chapter 23, spoken by the character Scout