

Student Essay on Courage in "To Kill a Mockingbird"

Courage in "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

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Essay

To Kill A Mockingbird was a mixture of sorrow and suspense in Alabama during the 1930s. During this period of time there were a lot of prejudice people. It took real courage and bravery to do what some of these people did through the uneasy circumstances. Atticus, Mrs. Dubose, and Boo Radley showed many examples of such courage.

Atticus proved, in my opinion, to be the most courageous in the book. He went against the town and willingly defended Tom Robinson, a black man. Atticus took the ridicule and remarks from many of the town's people. Even though all of the racism and hate, he did his best to defend Tom. He said, "If I didn't I couldn't hold my head up in town, I couldn't represent this country in legislature, I couldn't even tell you or Jem not to do something"(75).

Another person who showed exceptional courage was Mrs. Dubose. She bravely attempted to break her addiction to morphine. Even when she knew chances were slim, she tried anyway. Atticus describes her as the bravest person he knew. He describes courage, "It's when you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what"(112).

Along with Atticus and Mrs. Dubose, Boo Radley did the final act of courage. Boo single-handedly saved Scout and Jem from Bob Ewell. He risked the chance of being publicly seen after all those years of hiding behind those dark walls. It was like what Mr. Tate said, "All the ladies in Macomb includin' my wife'd be knocking on his door bringing angel food cakes. To my way of thinkin', Mr. Finch, taking hte one man who's done you and this town a great service and draggin' him with his shy ways into te limelight-to me. that's a sin. It's a sin and I'm not about to have it on my head"(276).

With these many acts of courage shown by Atticus, Mrs. Dubose, and Boo Radley, inspiration was added to the novel, There was also a sense of mingled loyalty of the characters. In short, the valiant display of bravery and courage played a key role in the foundation of the novel's overall moral to hurt an innocent and good person is to sin for they do nothing to hurt us.