

## Chapter 1

Setting:

Maycomb Alabama

1932/3 → 2-3 yrs later

Characterization:

flashback

Scout:

9/10 yrs

→ 5/6 yrs old

Jean Louise Finch (the story rewinds + starts here)

- Innocent

- Curious

- very smart - can read

- strong-willed

- naive ~~innocent~~

- outspoken

- beyond her years

Cal:

- Cook (like a nanny) → helps w/ kids

- works for family

- Af.-Am.

- like family to them

- strict w/ kids

Atticus:

\* wise

- a bit older than most parents

- generous

- family-oriented

Dill:

- lawyer

- patient -

teaches them lessons

Charles Baker Harris

- stays w/ aunt in Summers

- tall tales - v. imaginative

Legend of Boo Radley:

- represents the outside world

## Chapter 1

Setting: Maycomb, Alabama  
 Great Depression - "the crash", the WPA,  
 FDR's speech, 1932 → "nothing to fear"  
 p. 6 - small town

Characterization:

Scout: Jean Louise Finch -  
 - curious, adventurous, tomboyish, follows Jem  
 + Dill - a leader → kids look to her to  
 - mom died @ 2. talk to teacher

- narrator  
 - intelligent - taught herself to read,  
 knew cursive, observant

- very mature  
 - stubborn, outspoken

Cal: Cook, mother figure to Scout + Jem  
 - treated as an equal esp. by Atticus

- She's A.F. Am. - treated as family

Atticus: - strict but loving / educated / literate

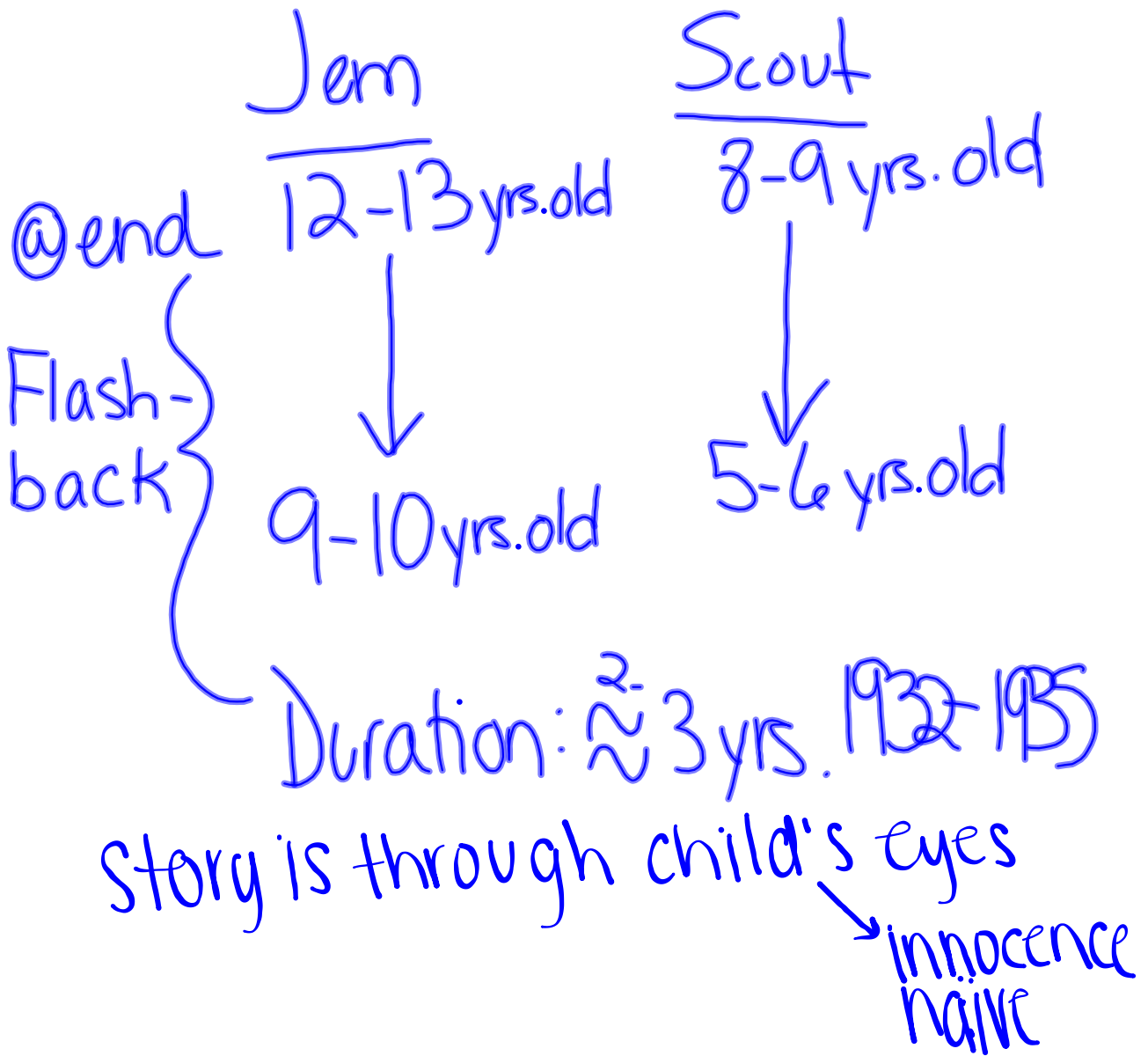
- lawyer - respects others + is well-respected  
 (all people)

- humble  
 - honest w/ them - not judgmental

Dill: Charles Baker Harris - spends  
 summers w/ aunt - yr. older  
 - little boy w/ big imagination

Legend of Boo Radley:

- Arthur Radley



To Kill a Mockingbird  
 Chapters 2 & 3

**Directions:** Read and annotate the following excerpts about Walter and Burris. Using the t-chart, compare and contrast the two characters using examples (quotes/paraphrasing) from the passages.

**Walter Cunningham**

If Walter had owned any shoes he would have worn them the first day of school and then discarded them until mid-winter. He did have on a clean shirt and neatly mended overalls. (19)

... While Walter piled food on his plate, he and Atticus talked together like two men, to the wonderment of Jem and me. Atticus was expounding upon farm problems when Walter interrupted to ask if there was any molasses in the house. Atticus summoned Calpurnia, who returned bearing the syrup pitcher. She stood waiting for Walter to help himself. Walter poured syrup on his vegetables and meat with a generous hand. He would probably have poured it into his milk glass had I not asked what in the sam hill he was doing.

The silver saucer clattered when he replaced the pitcher, and he quickly put his hands in his lap. Then he ducked his head. (24)

**Burris Ewell**

The cootie's host showed not the faintest interest in the furor he had wrought. He searched the scalp above his forehead, located his guest and pinched it between his thumb and forefinger. (26)

The boy stood up. He was the filthiest human I had ever seen. His neck was dark gray, the back of his hands were rusty, and his fingernails were black deep into the quick. He peered at Miss Caroline from a fist-sized clean space on his face. (27)

The boy snorted and slouched leisurely to the door.

Safely out of range, he turned and shouted, "Report and be damned to ye! Ain't no snot-nosed slut of a school-teacher ever born can make me do nothin'! You ain't making me go nowhere missus. You just remember that, you ain't making' me go nowhere!"

He waited until he was sure she was crying, then he shuffled out of the building. (28)

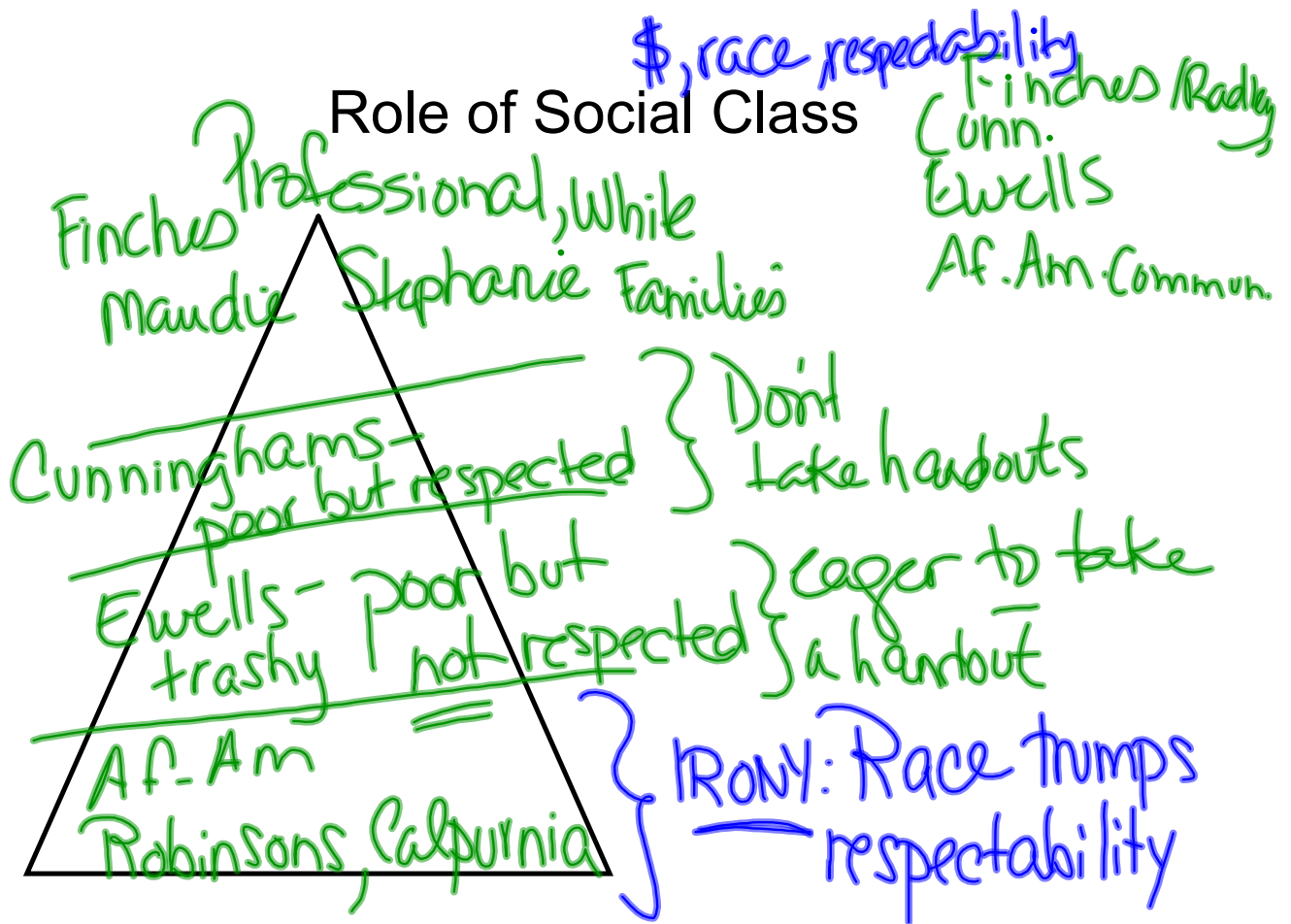
embarrassed

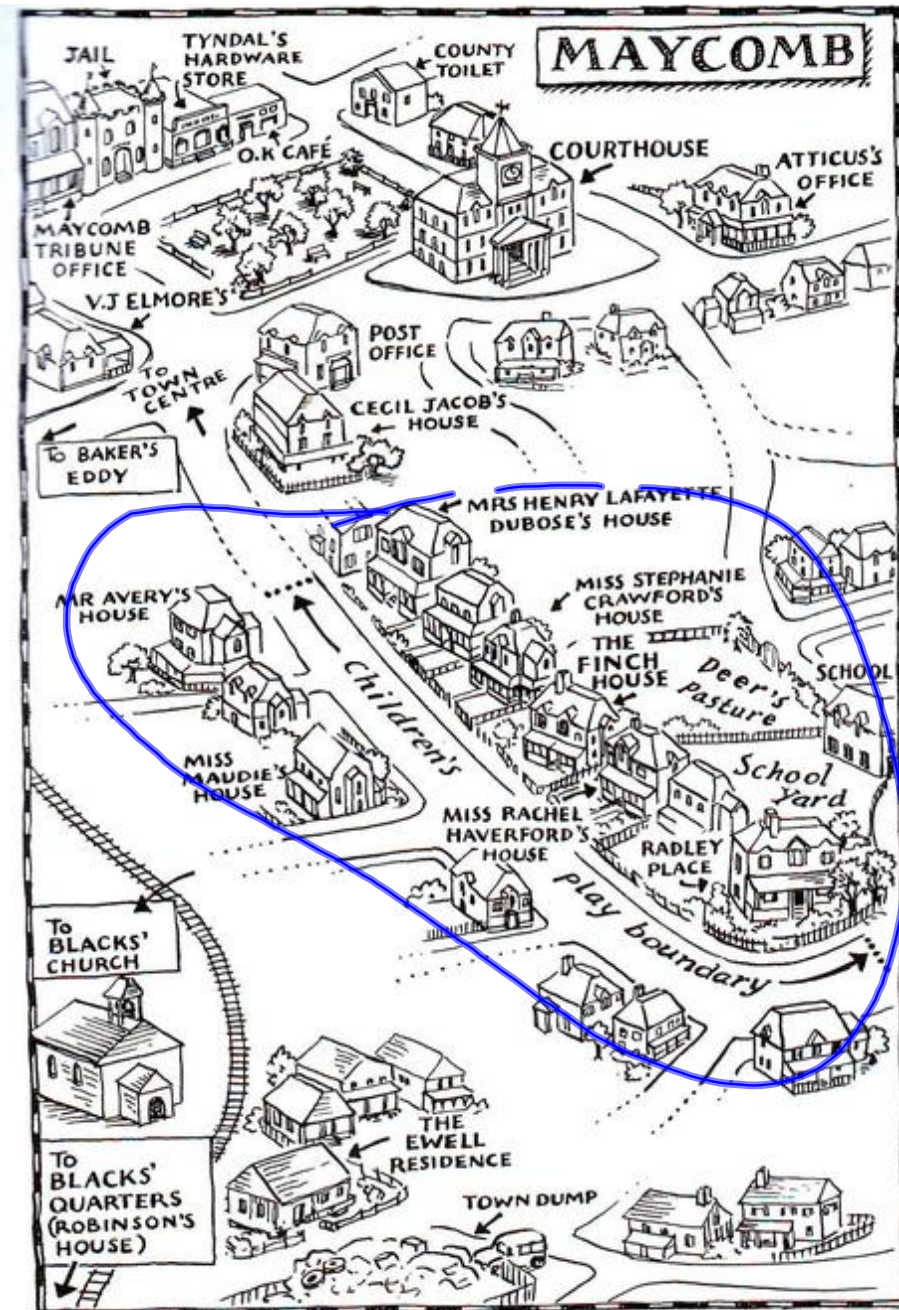
Walter

Burris

- poor but honorable
- won't take handouts
- mature
- respectable
- humble
- dirty but tries to be neat

- poor but nasty
- family works the system
- look for handouts
- disrespectful
- dirty





## Signs of Boo

Gifts in tree:

- gum
- pennies
- 

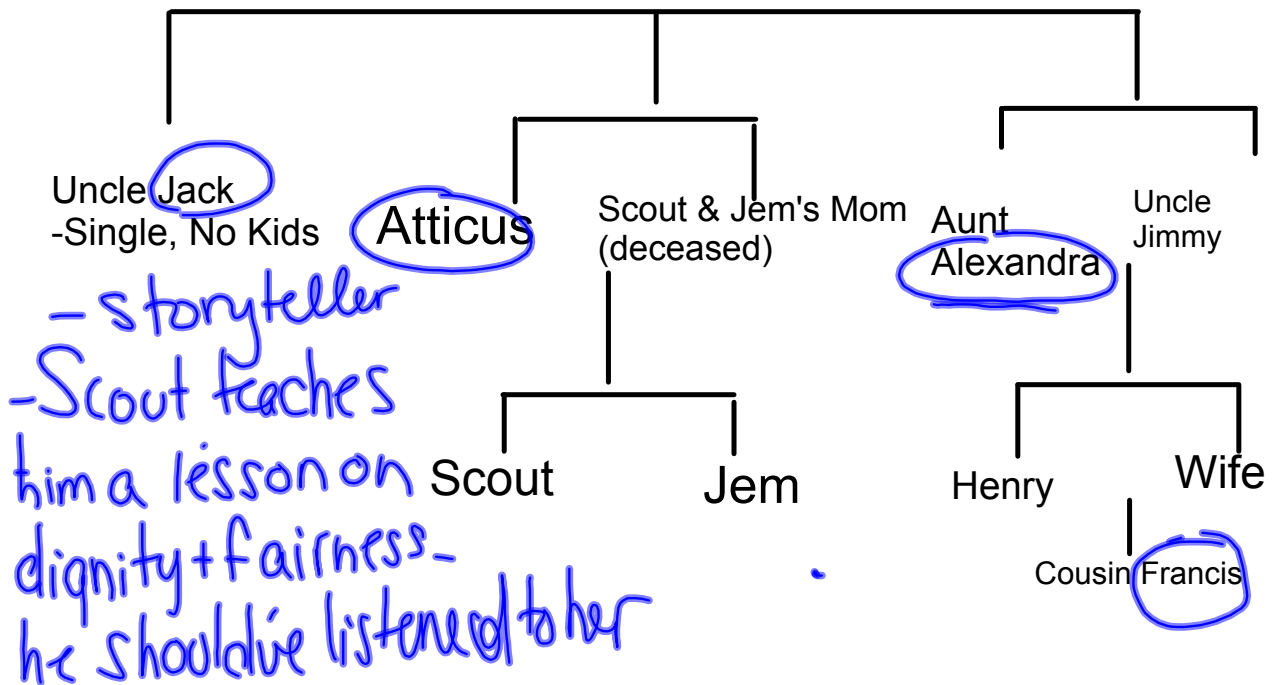
- blinds flickered
- heard laughing

## Maudie Atkinson vs. Stephanie Crawford

- nice to kids
  - makes them cakes
  - kids (esp. Scout) go to her for advice
  - good role model
  - very moral
  - clarifies rumors about Boo → Arthur Radley
  - loves to garden
  - pursued by Uncle Jack Finch
- "Foot-Washing Baptists"
- ↳ take Bible literally
  - religious fanatics
  - very judgmental - tell Maudie that she's sinful bc she's not inside w/ Bible
  - IRONY - they're hypocrites, & she's moral
  - religious hypocrisy
- town gossip - busy body
  - contributes to Boo rumors
  - tells kids stories



### FINCH FAMILY TREE



"Trust yourself when all men doubt you" (Line 5).

P 710

To Kill a Mockingbird

Read the following passages.

- Discuss the conflict that the character faces.
- Is it internal or external?
- How does he/she handle it?
- What does the way he/she handles conflict show about the character and his/her motivation?

Robinson's → good rep.

1. 'I'm simply defending a Negro - his name's Tom Robinson. He lives in that little settlement beyond the town dump. He's a member of Calpurnia's church, and Cal knows his family well. She says they're clean-living folks. Scout, you aren't old enough to understand some things yet, but there's been some high talk around town to the effect that I shouldn't do much about defending this man. It's a peculiar case - it won't come to trial until summer session...'

'If you shouldn't be defendin' him, then why are you doin' it?'

'For a number of reasons,' said Atticus. The main one is, if I didn't I couldn't hold up my head in town. I couldn't represent this county in the legislature. I couldn't even tell you or Jem not to do something again.' (75)

Motivation: ① to stick to his beliefs

② to be true, not a hypocrite

③ to be a good role model for his kids

External Conflict: Atticus vs. Society (Maycomb)

Internal: to take case or not - doesn't hesitate but recognizes struggle for family

~~P11~~ P11

To Kill a Mockingbird

CONFLICT

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respectable people

Scout's innocence: majority is wrong

\*

Atticus' motivation: ① to stick by his own values  
 ② to be honest (not hypocritical)  
 ③ to be a good role model for his kids

\* Judge Taylor appoints him but Atticus chooses to take it seriously & do his best

## Ch. 9 - Conflict (continued)

Scout vs. ~~the~~ Cousin Francis Dill

2. 'If Uncle Atticus lets you run around with stray dogs, that's his own business, like Grandma says, so it ain't your fault. I guess it ain't your fault if Uncle Atticus is a nigger-lover besides, but I'm here to tell you it certainly does mortify the rest of the family - ... Grandma says it's bad enough he lets you all run wild, but now he's turned out a nigger-lover we'll never be able to walk the streets of Maycomb agin. He's ruinin' the family, that's what he's doin'.' (83)

Scout vs. Francis

Atticus vs. his own family

→ Scout... confused - why would family disagree

Doesn't understand that majority rule isn't always right

Scout reacts - feisty + defends Atticus' honor

Ch. 9 - Conflict (continued)

Jack is more supportive (1) Role

3. 'But do you think I could face my children otherwise? You know what's going to happen as well as I do, Jack, and I hope and pray I can get Jem and Scout through it without bitterness, and most of all, without catching Maycomb's usual disease. Why reasonable people go stark raving mad when anything involving a Negro comes up, is something I don't pretend to understand...I just hope that Jem and Scout come to me for their answers instead of listening to the town. I hope they trust me enough...Jean Louise?' ...

Model  
People  
use  
their

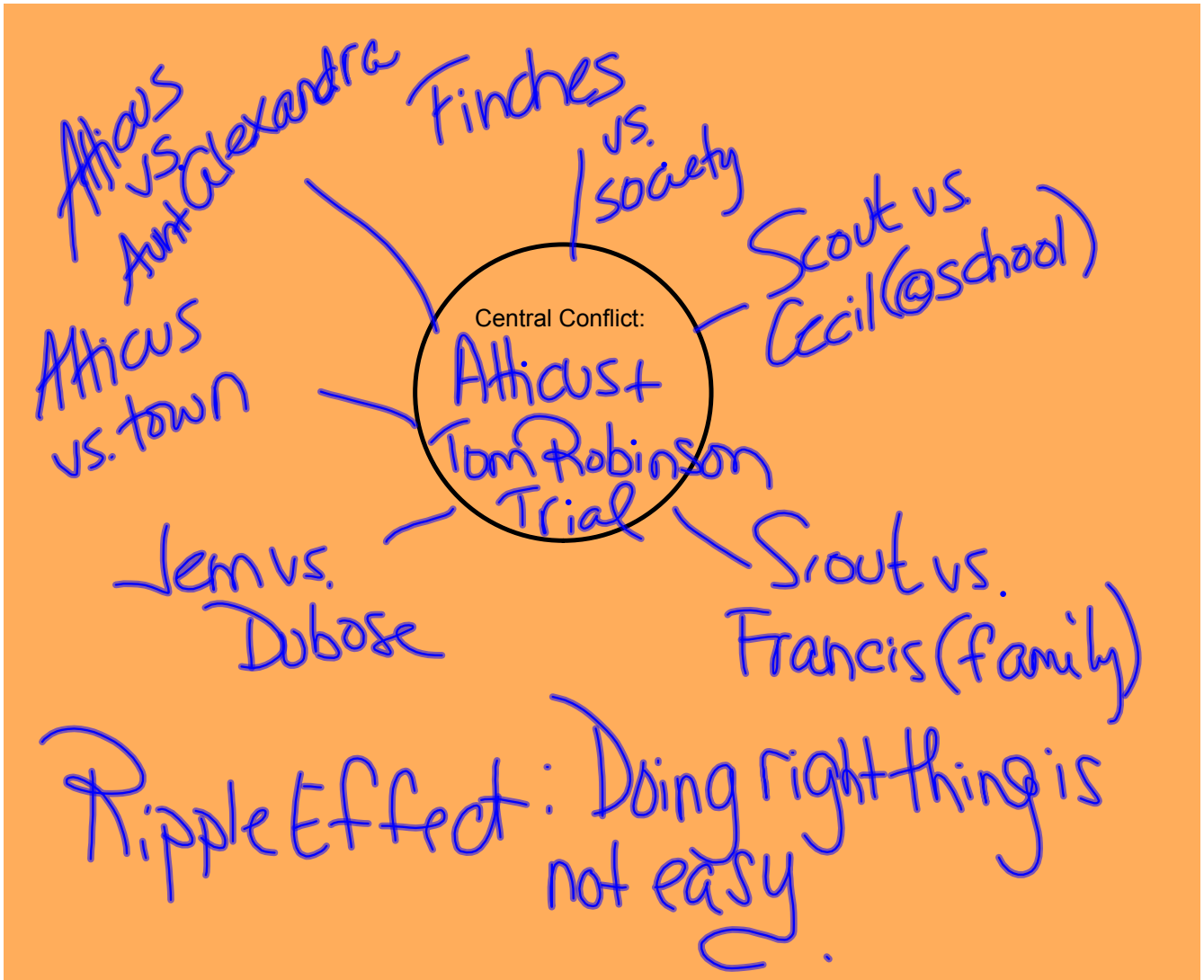
understands later  
I never figured out how Atticus knew I was listening, and it was not until years later that I realized he wanted me to hear every word he said. (89-90)

Racism - trying to shield them

heads -  
blinds  
them to  
reason

If you hear 2nd hand -  
overhearing is more meaningful

- Preparing them for conflict  
Atticus' Conflict: Doing right thing  
puts them @ risk .



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>B. Tim Johnson came into sight, walking dazedly in the inner rim of the curve parallel to the Radley house. "Look at him," whispered Jem. "Mr. Heck said they walked in a straight line. He can't even stay in the road."<br/>         "He looks more sick than anything," I said.<br/>         "Let anything get in front of him and he'll come straight at it."<br/>         Mr. Tate put his hand to his forehead and leaned forward. "He's got it all right, Mr. Finch." Tim Johnson was advancing at a snail's pace, but he was not playing or sniffing at foliage: he seemed dedicated to one course and motivated by an invisible force that was inching him toward us. We could see him shiver like a horse shedding flies; his jaw opened and shut; he was a list, but he was being pulled gradually toward us.</p> |  |
| <p>C. "Take him, Mr. Finch." Mr. Tate handed the rifle to Atticus; Jem and I nearly fainted.<br/>         "Don't waste time, Heck," said Atticus. "Go on."<br/>         "Mr. Finch, this is a one-shot job."<br/>         Atticus shook his head vehemently: Don't just stand there, Heck! He won't wait all day for you—"<br/>         "For God's sake, Mr. Finch, look where he is! Miss and you'll go straight into the Radley house! I can't shoot that well and you know it!"<br/>         "I haven't shot a gun in thirty years—"<br/>         Mr. Tate almost threw the rifle at Atticus. "I'd feel mighty comfortable if you did now," he said.</p>   |  |

**GUIDED QUESTIONS:**

**Passage A:**  
 Who is Tim Johnson?

*Rabid dog*

Based on his behavior, what can we assume is wrong with him?

*assertive; take charge*

Characterize Calpurnia based on her reaction to Tim Johnson.

*scared - looks out for other  
 & is clever + protective*

How do the people of Maycomb react to Tim Johnson? What does this show about him (Tim Johnson)?

*Hide from danger*

**Passage B:**

Make a connection to other parts in the novel- has there been any previous mention of disease? (*Hint: check near the end of chapter 9*)

Maycomb's usual disease - racism

**Passage C:**

Discuss the significance of Atticus being the person to shoot Tim Johnson.

Given responsibility of getting rid of "disease"

\* Consider the timing of the Tim Johnson incident, and who "saves" the neighborhood. What important event is about to take place in Maycomb?

foreshadows + symbolizes the trial

What do you think Tim Johnson represents? What does this incident *symbolize*?

racism

trial

+ Atticus' role



Mockingbirds:

symbolize innocent  
people who are targeted

Jem Finch

Scout Finch

Atticus Finch

Tom Robinson

Boo

**Jem Loses His Temper:**

“Come on, Scout,” he whispered. “Don’t pay any attention to her, just hold your head high and be a gentleman.”

But Mrs. Dubose held us: “Not only a Finch waiting on tables but one in the courthouse lawing for niggers!”

Jem stiffened, Mrs. Dubose’s shot had gone home and she knew it:

“Yes indeed, what has this world come to when a Finch goes against his raising? I’ll tell you!” She put her hand to her mouth. When she drew it away, it trailed a long silver thread of saliva. “Your father’s no better than the niggers and trash he works for!”...

I wasn’t sure what Jem resented most, but I took umbrage at Mrs. Dubose’s assessment of the family’s mental hygiene. I had become almost accustomed to hearing insults aimed at Atticus. But this was the first one coming from an adult...

At the time, however, I thought the only explanation for what he did was that for a few minutes he simply went mad... He did not begin to calm down until he had cut the tops off every camellia bush Mrs. Dubose owned, until the ground was littered with green buds and leaves. (103).



Big change in Jem - mature

Atticus criticized by adults  
Jem loses his head -

**Atticus explains to Scout:**

“Scout, when summer comes you’ll have to keep your head about far worse things...it’s not fair for you and Jem, I know that, but sometimes we have to make the best of things, and the way we conduct ourselves when the chips are down – well, all I can say is, when you and Jem grown, maybe you’ll look back on this with some compassion and some feeling that I didn’t let you down. This case, Tom Robinson’s case, is something that goes to the essence of a man’s conscience – Scout, I couldn’t go to church and worship God if I didn’t try to help that man.” (105)

“Atticus, you must be wrong... Well, most folks seem to think they’re right and you’re wrong..”

“They’re certainly entitled to think that, and they’re entitled to full respect for their opinions,” said Atticus, “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.**” (105)

Atticus: never says they're wrong  
doesn't judge - they have their opinions  
Bases his decisions on his own  
sense of right + wrong

**Scout asks what a “nigger-lover” is:**

“Scout,” said Atticus, “nigger-lover is just one of those terms that don’t mean anything – like snot-nose. It’s hard to explain – ignorant, trash people use it when they think somebody’s favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It’s slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody.”

“You aren’t really a nigger-lover, then, are you?”

“I certainly am. I do my best to love everybody...I’m hard put, sometimes, baby, it’s never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name. It just shows you how poor that person is, it doesn’t hurt you. So don’t let Mrs. Dubose get you down. She has enough troubles of her own.” (108)

**ATTICUS ABOUT MRS. DUBOSE:**

“She was a great lady...she had her own views about things, a lot different from mine, maybe....son, I told you that if you hadn't lost your head I'd have made you go read to hear. I wanted you to see something about her – 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. Mrs. Dubose won, all ninety-eight pounds of her. According to her views, she died beholden to nothing and nobody. **She was the bravest person I ever knew.**” (112)

## Attachments

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