

“We can never judge the lives of others because each person knows only their own pain and renunciation,” Paulo Coelho once said. Much like this quote expresses, society feels to have the right to judge without consideration. A historical fictional novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee has many references towards judging. Harper Lee expresses judgement through two young children being raised in a racist society with an incident where a white man heroically defends an innocent black man. Harper Lee shows human judgement through the characters of Boo Radley, Tom Robinson, and Atticus Finch. Harper Lee portrays the message of prejudging the worth or value of existence by it's appearance is not absolute.

Harper Lee shows judgement through the characters of Boo Radley. Boo Radley has the town talking about his background, especially his father. “Is Boo crazy because his daddy was a foot washing baptist?” Scout asked(61). Miss Maudie answered, “Well if he wasn't when this whole thing started he probably is now”(61). Miss Maudie is leaning towards that Boo is crazy because the past of Boo's father being a foot washing baptist even though she doesn't surely know if he is crazy. Boo is not the person Maycomb thinks he is. “Boo was about 6 ½ feet tall, judging from his tracks he dined on a raw squirrel and any cats he could catch, that's why his hands were blood stained - there was a long jagged scar that ran across his face; his eyes popped and he drooled most of the time” Scout said about Boo.(16) Don't go off judging if the truth isn't clear.

Along with that, the truth may not come out when judging, in fact like Tom Robinson. For example, during the Tom Robinson court case it was stated by Mr. Gilmer, “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, and the truth is: some negroes lie, some negroes are immoral, some negro men are not to be trusted around women - black or white...”(273) Mr. Gilmer is judging because the color of ones skin. Using hurtful words against someone makes a person look ignorant as

show in this quote. "I seen that black nigger yonder ruttin' on my Mayella!" Mr. Ewell stated.(230) Mr. Ewell didn't use Tom's name, he emphasized Tom's race and comparing Tom to a beast. If it were a white person, nothing nearly as cruel as that would have been said. Society tends to judge by the aspect before the inside is revealed.

In addition, Harper Lee expresses judgement in a more direct approach through Atticus Finch. "... you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it" Atticus explains to his daughter.(35) Generally judgement occurs by the sight without knowing the whole background story. Atticus now said to his son, "There's a lot of ugly things in this world son. I wish i could keep 'em all away from you. That's never possible".(115) Harper Lee indicates the ugly judgements are all around and will always be around. Harper Lee tries to show the realization of, the doing wrong of judging is not moral and to look from a different perspective before judging.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a great illustration of judging by the appearance of life is flawed. Boo Radley, Tom Robinson and Atticus Finch are the characters Harper Lee used to portray the message of human judgement. So why would Harper Lee use judgement as the message? Judgements are all around and society needs to learn that is wrong. Try to think twice before judging and look from a different perspective.