

Theme Racism Tom's trial is a major incident of racism as the entire novel revolves around it. He is arrested for rape and assault on Mayella Ewell, a white woman. This trial provides an opportunity to examine the racist stance of an entire community. Atticus decides to defend Tom because he believes he is innocent, but this angers the white community in Maycomb. Everyone in the town believes Mayella's side of the story except Atticus. Although there is no proof of his crime, he faces hatred from the citizens of his community as well as the court. The people of Maycomb are against him. He is a victim of racism just because of the colour of his skin